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Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore

Historical Sketches of Counties and Some Notable Structures

SWEPSON EARLE

Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore

Historical Sketches of Counties and Some Notable Structures

A Facsimile of the 1916 Edition

Edited by Swepson Earle

Illustrated

The nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore have long been famed in song and story; this compilation, which has been unavailable to the public for almost sixty years, is considered a classic contribution to the literature of the Maryland tidewater area – covering its history, its traditions, and giving descriptions of the old manor houses which were strung along the banks of the beautiful rivers like jewels on a silver thread.

Some of these edifices were costly and stately, others plain and unpretentious, but they all share a common heritage and recall colonial days, when waterways were usual travel routes, and barges and canoes had not yet been superseded by automobiles and the railroads. The mere names of the Eastern Shore rivers, tributaries of the Chesapeake such as the Shannon, the Chester, the Wye, the Warwick, the Tred Avon, the Corsica, the Bohemia, the Choptank and the Pocomoke, recall the English and the Dutch who first settled the region, the French and the Spanish who sought religious liberty here, and the native American Indians who were once the undisputed lords of the soil.

Here is the luxurious Hubbard Place in Kent County, built in 1765 and faithfully restored by Wilbur W. Hubbard – the home at one time of the first merchant of Chestertown and a Justice of the Kent County Court, of two United States Senators and a Governor of Maryland, with it's charming gardens and impressive Tonic architecture. Talbot County boasts the equally noted Wye House, erected about 1781 after the original Wye House had been burned down by British marauders and robbed of

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Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore

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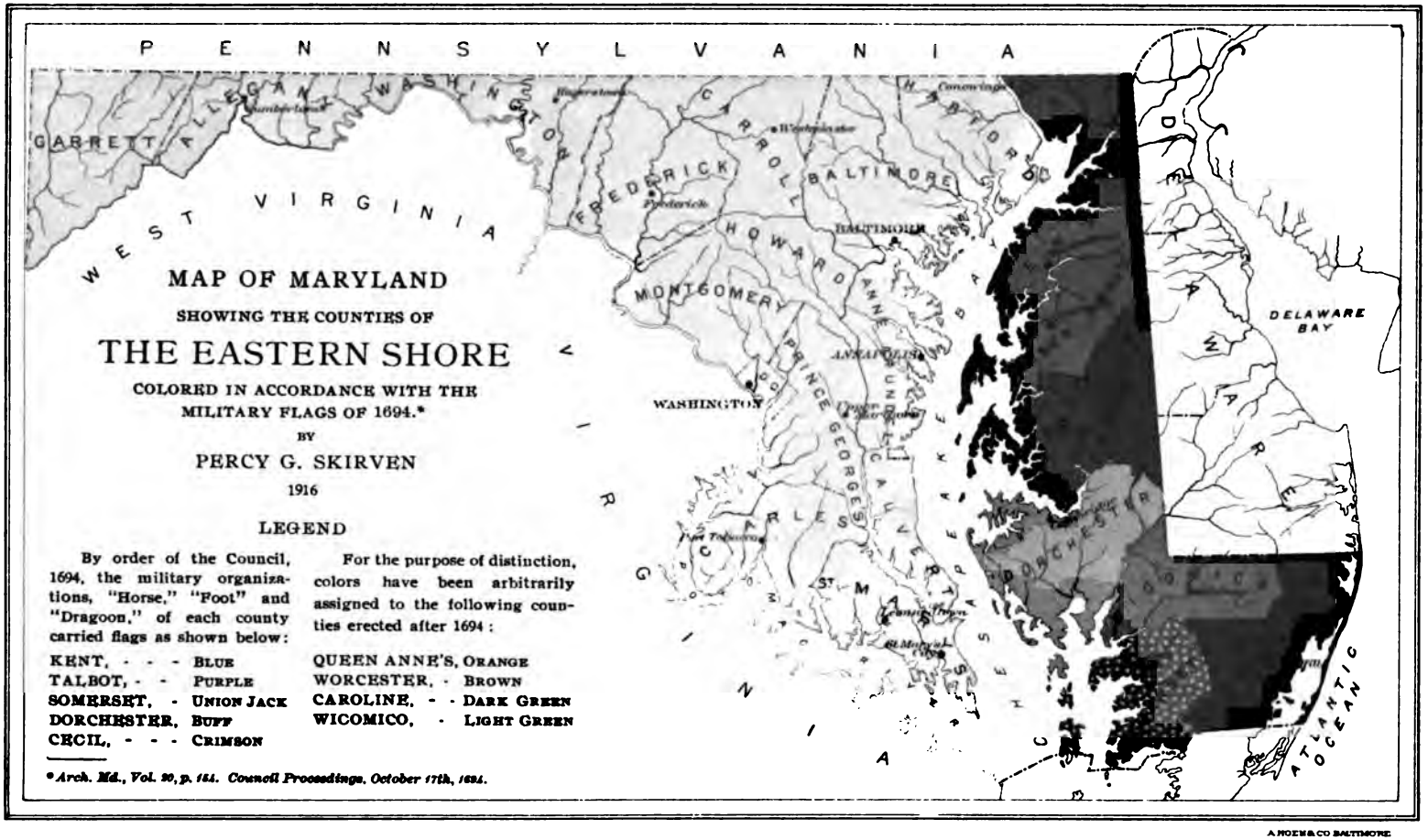

MAP OF MARYLAND

SHOWING THE COUNTIES OF

THE EASTERN SHORE

COLORED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MILITARY FLAGS OF 1694.*

BY

PERCY G. SKIRVEN

1916

LEGEND

By order of the Council, 1694, the military organizations, "Horse," "Foot" and "Dragoon," of each county carried flags as shown below:

KENT, - - - BLUE
TALBOT, - - PURPLE
SOMERSET, - UNION JACK
DORCHESTER, BUFF
CECIL, - - - CRIMSON

For the purpose of distinction, colors have been arbitrarily assigned to the following counties erected after 1694:

QUEEN ANNE'S, ORANGE
WORCESTER, - BROWN
CAROLINE, - - DARK GREEN
WICOMICO, - LIGHT GREEN

*Arch. Md., Vol. 20, p. 161. Council Proceedings, October 17th, 1694.

A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE

Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore

Historical Sketches of Counties and of
Some Notable Structures

Illustrated

SWEPSON EARLE, Editor
PERCY G. SKIRVEN, Asst. Editor

Weathervane Books
New York

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DEDICATION

I fondly dedicate this book to the memory of my grandfather, SAMUEL THOMAS EARLE, of "Melfield," Queen Anne's County. A progressive agriculturist until his death, (1904), in the 87th year of his age; a man who loved his family and home, and one ever ready to extend a helping hand to his friends and neighbors; an Eastern Shoreman of the Old School.

Swepson Earle.

CONTENTS

		Page
Frontispiece	*Map of Maryland*	
Preface		xiii
Introduction	*James A. Pearce*	xvii
KENT COUNTY	*Percy G. Skirven*	1
Hubbard Place		7
Camell's Worthmore		10
Comegys House		12
Caulk's Field		14
St. Paul's Church		15
Hinchingham		17
Suffolk. Lamb's Meadows		19, 20
Trumpington		21
Wickcliffe		22
TALBOT COUNTY	*John H. K. Shannahan*	24
Wye House		29
The Rich Neck		31
Perry Cabin		33
The Anchorage		35
Long Point		37
The Wilderness		39
Otwell		41
Wye Heights		42
Ratcliffe Manor		43
Hampden		44
SOMERSET COUNTY	*H. Fillmore Lankford*	46
Workington		51
Rehoboth Church		53
Makepeace. Old Lankford Home		55, 56
Kingston Hall		57
Washington Hotel		59
Teackle Mansion		61
Beechwood		62
Beckford		64
Clifton		66
DORCHESTER COUNTY	*W. Laird Henry*	68
Warwick Fort Manor House		74
The Old Dorchester House		76
The Point		77
Hambrook		79
Castle Haven		81
Eldon		83
Glasgow		85
Old Trinity Church		87
Rehoboth		89
CECIL COUNTY	*Henry L. Constable*	91
Bohemia Manor		96
Frenchtown House		98

CONTENTS

		Page
Holly Hall		100
Partridge Hill. Gilpin Manor		101, 102
Tobias Rudulph House		103
Charlestown		105
St. Stephen's Church		106
Perry Point		108
Success		110
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY	*DeCourcy W. Thom*	112
The Hermitage		117
Readbourne		119
Old Point		121
Blakeford		123
Walnut Grove		125
Reed's Creek		126
Bloomingdale		127
Old Pratt House		129
Poplar Grove. Bloomfield		131, 132
Melfield		133
WORCESTER COUNTY	*Samuel K. Dennis*	135
Beverly		140
Timmons Mansion		142
Ingleside		143
All Hallows Church		145
Old Furnace		147
St. Martin's Church		148
Burley Cottage		150
Decatur Birthplace		152
Sinepuxent Inlet		154
CAROLINE COUNTY	*Edward T. Tubbs*	156
Frazier's Flats House		161
Murray's Mill		164
Potter Mansion		166
Neck Meeting House		169
Oak Lawn		171
Cedarhurst. Thawley House		173, 174
Castle Hall		175
Plaindealing		177
WICOMICO COUNTY	*L. Irving Pollitt*	179
Old Green Hill Church		183
Pemberton Hall		185
Poplar Hill Mansion		187
"Rokawakin" Church		189
Ben Davis House		191
Birthplace of Samuel Chase		192
Spring Hill Church		194
Bishop Stone House		195
Cherry Hill		197
Washington College	*James W. Cain*	200
Simple Life on the Eastern Shore		203

PREFACE

THE reader will observe that this book is the result of true Eastern Shore coöperation. Historical facts, as well as traditions, could only be procured from those familiar with their own particular sections of our Peninsula.

Judge James Alfred Pearce in his splendid tribute to the Eastern Shore tells of the land of our forefathers. He calls attention to the productiveness of our Peninsula. He speaks of men of distinction who were born on the land lying on the easterly side of the Chesapeake. Every citizen of the Eastern Shore knows, either personally or by reputation, this distinguished jurist of Kent and for his contribution alone this book will be valued by many.

The principal reasons for my determination to publish this book are as follows:

First: There seems to be a demand for a publication of this character, because the average Marylander is unfamiliar with the geography and history of this part of his State. This applies to residents of the tidewater as well as of the interior sections of Maryland. While residents of each county are more or less familiar with the geography and history of their particular county, their knowledge of other counties is often very limited, and it is hoped that this book will be of use and permanent value to those who are interested in these subjects.

Second: To interest all Eastern Shoremen and the general public in old landmarks of the State that are fast disappearing with the march of time. The early settlers received grants to tracts of land from the proprietary government of the Calverts and built their homes along the banks of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. Their descendants inherited these properties, usually subdivided among large families, and built other houses. A chain of these colonial homes is found in

all the counties and they form connecting links in the family histories. With their passing and the loss of family records future genealogical research will be made difficult, and in some cases impossible.

Third: The interest in the affairs of the Eastern Shore manifested by the members of the Eastern Shore Society of Baltimore City was an additional incentive to produce this compilation and I hope the work will prove a further stimulant to their interest in the delightful land of their birth. This society is composed of natives of the Eastern Shore who are residents of the City of Baltimore. They are formed into chapters—one for each of the nine counties. The compilation includes a historical sketch of each county and short sketches describing nine places of historical interest in that county. The sketch for each county has been contributed by a well-known county man familiar with its history. Indeed, the love for and interest in their native land shown by all Marylanders now living where'er it has pleased God to call them has been sufficient inspiration to undertake this publication.

To do credit to all of the important historical places on the Eastern Shore of Maryland worthy to be included in this publication would require a volume of several times this size. It is with regret that I am obliged to leave out such well-known places as "Gilpin Manor" and "The Washington House," of Cecil; "Broadnox," "Janvier Homestead," "Worton Manor," "Stoneton," and the homes of the Wickes, Perkins and Beck families, of Kent; "Cloverfields," "Conquest," "Sunnyside," "Wye," "Cheston-on-Wye," "Bolingly" and the Wilmer and Embert homesteads, of Queen Anne's; "Hope," "Perry Hall," "The Rest," "Myrtle Grove," "Plimhimmon," "Beechwood," "Fairview," "Bolton" and other places, of Talbot; "Arlington," "Westover," "The Cedars," and "Almodington," of Somerset; "The Hill," and the homes of the Stewart, Bayly, and Simmons families, in Cambridge, the Hooper and Edmondson homes in East New Market, and "John's Point," the colonial home of Col. Roger Woolford, of Dorchester; and other homesteads scattered throughout our Peninsula; but in order to cover each county geographically the selection had to be made without any discrimination on my part.

The shores of the nine counties known as "The Eastern Shore of Maryland" bear the distinction of being washed by the Chesapeake Bay or one or more of its tributaries. During the days of the Colony there was an unlimited supply of game and wild water-fowl and the game pegs are still found in the cellars of old houses, then seldom relieved of their burdens, and on the cellar floors beneath the "canvas-backs" and "red-heads" crawled the diamond-back terrapin—no luxury in those days—"just food for all white folks," the poor and rich had a bountiful supply of them and fared alike. In fact, at one time there was a law on the statute books of Maryland limiting the number of times slaves were to be fed on terrapin each week. While these resources have been very much depleted, oysters, fish and crabs are still plentiful and with the enforcement of conservation laws and broader education on the subject the supply of these water-riches should remain with us for many years to come.

The compilation of the data contained in this book represents considerable time and research. To Mr. Percy G. Skirven, a member of the Eastern Shore Society and a native of Kent County, author of the historical sketch for that county, my thanks are gratefully extended. He has worked continuously with me in the compilation and arrangement of the data. He has also vised much of the matter in the book, in which work his knowledge of Maryland's history and land grants has made his aid invaluable. The majority of the illustrations appearing herein are from a large collection of photographs of Maryland scenes taken by me while engaged in surveying the waters of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. The publication of this book required the outlay of considerable money and two public-spirited members of the Eastern Shore Society, Mr. B. Howard Haman and Mr. Wilbur W. Hubbard, of Kent County, came forward and made it financially possible. My sincere appreciation and thanks are extended to these two gentlemen.

Many members of the Eastern Shore Society and residents of the State have aided in this work in other ways and to these I feel under many obligations for their assistance. The President, Judge W. Laird Henry: Past Presidents Dr. J. Clement Clark and Dr. James Bordley, Jr., and the Vice-Presidents of the Society have helped greatly. The Secretary, Mr. J. H. K. Shannahan, has been untiring in his efforts. In addition to these, my thanks are extended to Judge Pearce and Mrs. Wilbur W. Hubbard, of Kent; Mr. Milton Campbell, Gen. Joseph B. Seth, Mr. Frank W. Seth, Mr. W. Thomas Kemp, Col. Richard H. Spencer, Mr. Francis B. Culver and Mr. Wilson M. Tylor, of Talbot; Mr. H. Fillmore Lankford, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Gale, Mr. Henry J. Waters, Mrs. J. Douglas Wallop, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Collins, Mr. J. Weldon Green and Mr. Joseph Y. Brattan, of Somerset; Miss Nellie Calvert Carroll, of Dorchester, to whom I feel deeply indebted for her successful efforts in securing pictures and data for the Dorchester sketches, also to Mr. James S. Shepherd, Land Commissioner of Maryland; Mr. Henry L. Constable, of Cecil; Mr. DeCourcy W. Thom, Mr. A. S. Goldsborough, Mr. Madison Brown, Mr. F. Julien Bailey, Miss Susan Williams, Mr. Edward B. Emory, of Queen Anne's; Mr. Samuel K. Dennis, Mr. John W. Staton and Mr. William R. Bishop, of Worcester; Mr. J. Dukes Downes, Mr. Howard Melvin, Capt. Charles W. Wright, Col. Albert W. Sisk, Mr. J. Kemp Stevens, Mr. Charles B. Harrison and Mr. Edward T. Tubbs, of Caroline—Mr. Tubbs, in addition to writing the history of his county, has aided with the sketches and the arrangement of the work; Mr. L. Irving Pollitt and Judge E. Stanley Toadvine, of Wicomico. I am indebted to these and many others who have coöperated with me in the publication of these stories of Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore, thereby placing in the hands of the reader original data and authentic information of that favored part of Maryland that lies east of the Chesapeake Bay.

Swepson Earle.

INTRODUCTION

Know ye the land of the cedar and vine,
Where the flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine.
Where the light winds of zephyr, oppressed with perfume,
Wax faint o'er the gardens of rose in their bloom;
Where the peach and the melon are choicest of fruit,
And the voice of the mocking bird never is mute;
Where the tints of the earth and the hues of the sky,
In color though varied, in beauty may vie?
'Tis the land of the favored Eastern Shore,
Where nature has lavished its marvelous store.

Local adaptation of The Bride of Abydos.

FROM the rock-ribbed hills of Cecil, where the vocal waters of the Octoraro and the Elk are lost in the Susquehanna and the Chesapeake, to the cypress swamps and green lagoons of the Pocomoke, whose silent current seeks the sea, there is a succession of noble streams as fair "as e'er the sun shone on." The Shannon, the Chester, the Wye, the Miles, the Tred Avon and the Warwick are redolent of our English ancestry. The Bohemia recalls Augustine Herman and the Dutch settlers in Delaware. The Corsica, which joins the Chester at Spaniard's Point, hints at the French and Spanish element attracted by the promise of civil and religious liberty for all; while the Choptank, the Nanticoke, the Wicomico, the Manokin and the Pocomoke tell of the Indians who were once the undisputed lords of the soil.

Strung upon these beautiful rivers, like jewels upon silver threads, were the old manor houses—some costly and stately, others plain and unpretentious—and the substantial homes of the pioneers of civilization whose only early paths of travel were waterways, and whose vehicles of business and pleasure were barges and canoes. Now that so many denizens of our great cities and busy towns having the wealth or the competence which invites retirement from the toil and hazards of active business are seeking for rural homes; now that the automobile, with the finest system of macadam roads, has solved the question of mileage, the attractions of the Eastern Shore to home-seekers ought to be made known to the public beyond its limits. While this volume originated in Mr. Earle's wish to stimulate the interest of Maryland men and women in the history of this part of the State, the careful text and beautiful photographic illustrations of the old historic homes cannot fail to give it wider publicity, and there are few regions which combine greater natural attractions and finer asso-

ciations with moderate land values and better prospect of substantial and steady increase. Here is a fertile soil; a mild and equable climate, with absolute immunity from the storms and floods so destructive in some other highly favored regions; numerous navigable streams of rare beauty, teeming with fish and oysters, and providing short and easy access to Baltimore, and proximity to the three largest cities of the Atlantic Coast, with every rail facility to their markets as well as to those of central and more western States.

Many families are the lineal descendants of some of the best blood of Old England and the great majority are of the lineage of those sturdy lovers of civil and religious liberty in equal combination, which in spite of Magna Charta they did not enjoy at home. Our people are more homogeneous in origin and character than those of any other region except the mountain ranges which stretch from the Potomac to the Great Bend of the Tennessee River. Here was bred and born Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution—Samuel Chase, the Carnot of that period—Tench Tilghman, the trusted staff officer of General Washington throughout the weary years of the struggle for independence—and John Dickinson, the statesman to whose wisdom and patriotism the Earl of Chatham bore witness in Parliament in speaking of the petition to the King written by him, and declaring "that all attempts to impose servitude on such men must be in vain." From that source, too, were recruited in part the command of General Smallwood, which at Long Island Heights saved Washington's army from destruction, and that of Colonel Howard, which at Cowpens humiliated the British regulars and gained one of the most important victories of the war in its results.

One who in his splendid young manhood fought with Forrest throughout the war between the States, now in his splendid old age a distinguished surgeon in New York City and a patriotic lover of the reunited country, has happily described his people and comrades of North Alabama as "then and still clean-cut Americans, uncontaminated by contact or association with the restless, poverty-stricken and discontented hordes of immigrants who are crowding our shores in these latter days, either as anarchists who, like shedding snakes, strike blindly and viciously at everything which moves, or like the Socialists, whose aim is seemingly to bring all human endeavor to the

common level of mediocrity. Should the safety of our institutions ever be endangered, I prophesy that these men of the foothills and mountains of the South will be the strongest guarantee of law and order." These words may be fitly and without immodesty claimed to be applicable to the people of the Eastern Shore. The Appalachians long isolated, and still in large degree isolate, the people of whom he spoke; and until in recent years the network of railways on the Eastern Shore was developed, the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays isolated the Peninsula which they form. In both regions the pure blood of our English ancestry has remained almost unmixed. In the plain and simple homes, such as Elihu Root referred to in his eloquent address to the 1915 Constitutional Convention of New York, "truth and honor dwelt," and from these homes, North and South, have come some of the ablest men and purest patriots who in civil or military life have devoted themselves to the service of their country.

Chestertown, Md.,
November 1, 1916

James A. Pearce

WYE RIVER

KENT COUNTY

1642

KING CHARLES I of England gave explicit instructions to the Governor of Virginia in 1627 to procure for him exact information concerning the bays and rivers of the country adjacent to the settlement on the James River. William Claiborne, then Secretary of the Virginia Colony, was commissioned by the governor to explore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. While thus engaged, Claiborne traded with the Indians for furs on what is now called Kent Island. Later a settlement was made there and a regular trading port established. The name "Kentish Isle" being given by Claiborne to that island led the Calverts when they came into possession of the Province of Maryland in 1634 to name the whole of the upper Eastern Shore, lying north of the Choptank River, the "*Isle of Kent.*"

Eight years later, August 2, 1642, mention is made in the colonial records of the Province of the "Sheriff of Kent County." This record indicates the creation of the county, it being the second civil division of the Province of Maryland. The members of the Colonial Assembly represented at that time, at St. Mary's City, only two civil divisions of the Province, St. Mary's and Isle of Kent County. By colonial records showing the appointment in 1661 of commissioners "for that part of the Province lying south of the Choptank River newly seated called the Eastern Shore," which territory was later divided into the Counties of Somerset and Dorchester, it is shown conclusively that all of that part of the Province on the south side of the Choptank was the "Eastern Shore" and all on the north side was then known as the "Isle of Kent." From this part of Maryland, known as the "Isle of Kent," the following counties were created: Kent County, in 1642; part of Baltimore County, seventeen years later, in 1659; Talbot County, twenty years later, in 1662; Cecil County, thirty-two years later, in 1674, (Cecil was made of that part of Baltimore County

officially designated as "East Baltimore County" that lay on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay); Queen Anne's County, sixty-four years later, in 1706, (it being created from the upper part of Talbot County); and Caroline County, 131 years later, in 1773, (it being formed of parts of Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties).

Through lack of accurate knowledge of the geography of the Province when the proclamation erecting Cecil County was issued, in 1674, Kent County was limited to about half its present area. This arrangement proved so inconvenient for the administration of its judicial affairs that upon petition to the Assembly the Sassafras River was in 1706 made the boundary between Kent and Cecil Counties.

Six years after Claiborne first traded with the Indians on the "Kentish Isle" the colonists led by Leonard Calvert landed, on March 25, 1634, at St. Mary's and took possession of the land in accordance with the provisions laid down in the charter which King Charles gave to Cecilius Calvert. This charter made Cecilius Calvert the absolute owner of all the land lying within the bounds of the Province of Maryland, and to encourage people to come to the Province to settle the land was "granted" or given to them subject to a small rent payable in two equal instalments at the Feast of the Annunciation and at Michaelmas each year to Lord Baltimore's representative in the Province. The conditions under which these grants were made changed from time to time, but the first grants were based on one hundred acres of land for each and every person brought into the colony by the person applying for land. Each bore the name selected by the colonist and very often was that of the locality in England from which he came; thus, for instance, we find large tracts granted in Kent County under the following names: "Arcadia," "Buckingham," "Drayton," "Denbeigh," "Essex," "Fairlee," "The Grange," "Hinchingham," "Kimbolton," "Lynn," "Pentridge," "Ratcliffe," "Suffolk," "Stepney," "Thornton," "Tolchester," "Wickcliffe" and "Worton."

Following long-established custom in England, the Proprietary created in the counties of the Province courts baron and courts leet. To Col. Edward Carter, then of Nansemond County, Virginia, Lord Baltimore granted "Worton," a tract of land containing 2,300 acres, lying between Still Pond Creek and Worton Creek and bounded on

the west by the Chesapeake Bay. Incident to this tract was the first court baron in Kent, and the following clause is from the original record:

> And we do hereby erect the said Two Thousand Three hundred Acres into a Mannor by the name of Worton Mannor together with a Court-Baron and all things belonging thereunto by the law of the Custom of England.

"Worton Manor" was early acquired by John Gale, whose descendants lived there for over a century.

It was on "Huntingfield," a grant of 1,200 acres, owned by Major James Ringgold, that the first county court house was built at "New Yarmouth," in Kent County. Through the influence of this early colonist the town was laid out on the Gray's Inn Creek side of "Huntingfield" prior to 1680, and true to his ancestral home he named the place "New Yarmouth." This original county-seat of Kent took on great activities and vessels traded regularly with the English ports. From its shipyards large vessels for ocean traffic were launched.

Along the Chester River and its tributaries the land became thickly settled all the way up to Crumpton at "Collister's Ferry." On both sides of the river large estates were granted and the production of tobacco increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to establish a port of entry farther up the river in addition to "New Yarmouth"; this was done at the present site of Chestertown. In 1696 the Assembly authorized the Commissioners of Kent County to purchase three acres of land "whereon to build a court house." It was on the grant called "Stepney" that the court house was built, for in 1708 the Assembly authorized the purchase of "fifty acres of land at Chester Ferry near the place where the old court house stood," which was to be "laid out and divided into one hundred lots" and to be called Chestertown. The commissioners entrusted to lay out the town were John Carvill, Daniel Pearce, Thomas Covington, Edward Bathurst, Arthur Miller, William Bateman, Philip Hoskins and Capts. William Potts and Edward Plastoe. "Stepney," a grant of 500 acres, was first surveyed for Thomas Bovery, who died without heirs, and upon the escheating of the land to the Proprietary it was surveyed again for Mary Bateman. In an old deed to Thomas

Joyce, innholder, from Benjamin Blackleach, cordwainer, 100 acres of "Stepney" is described as being on the west side of Chester River at "Thomas Seward's Landing." Thomas Joyce paid 7,000 pounds of tobacco for the 100 acres—a pound being worth about eight cents.

The removal of the county-seat to Chestertown from "New Yarmouth" was soon followed by an order of the Council in 1707 which reads as follows: "All towns, rivers, creeks and coves in Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's Counties (except Kent Island) shall be deemed members of Chester Town in Chester River." With this order "New Yarmouth" lost its last chance to become a permanent town and today only a few scattered bricks can be seen as evidence of its ever having existed. Other towns were authorized to be laid out; among them were "Shrewsbury Town" on "Meeting House Point" on the Sassafras River; "Gloucester Town" on Cackaway Point on Langford Bay, and "Milford Town" on Swan Creek. These towns never became more than landing places and today no evidence of them is to be found. For the better handling of the tobacco trade, the Assembly authorized the purchase of half an acre of ground at convenient landing places along the rivers and creeks, to be called "Public Landings," "where tobacco may be brought in order to be waterbourne and conveyed to any town of this province." Upon this land the commissioners were authorized "to build rowling [rolling] houses not to lie above two furlongs from the water." The tobacco in casks was rolled from the plantations to the landings.

On April 3, 1701, a report sent to the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations in England by Governor Francis Nicholson shows Kent County at that time had 707 taxable inhabitants and 1,223 others not subject to a tax, a total of 1,930 inhabitants. This report was subdivided to show masters of families, freewomen and servants, free children, (boys and girls); free men and serving men, servants, (boys and girls), and slaves. In 1712 there were 2,886 inhabitants in the county.

Kent County was divided into hundreds and the names in 1696 were Town, Lower Chester River, Lower Langford, Swan Creek, Island, Eastern Neck, and Chester Upper Hundred. In each of these hundreds companies of soldiers were organized for protection against

the Indians. In 1705 the Indians had been giving the Province considerable trouble and in that year the Assembly designated Philemon Lloyd, of Talbot, Nathaniel Hynson, of Kent, and Thomas Addison as commissioners to go to "Conestoga or farther northward" to treat with the "Senequis" Indians. When the French and Indian War broke out Kent furnished her quota.

In 1775 it was seen that war with Great Britain was inevitable and an Association of the Freemen of Maryland was formed, all of the counties being represented. Delegates were chosen by the several counties to the Provincial Convention which met at Annapolis on Wednesday, the 26th day of July, 1775, and appointed a committee to consider ways and means to put the Province into the best state of defense. The following were the Kent delegates to the Convention: William Ringgold, Col. Richard Lloyd, Thomas Smythe, Joseph Earle and Thomas Bedingfield Hands. Chestertown became the most important place on the Eastern Shore for the accumulation of munitions and firearms. Elisha Winters, a large manufacturer of firearms, of that town, was designated by the Council of Safety the official gunsmith for the Eastern Shore. The Council of Safety consisted of eight men from the Eastern Shore and a like number from the Western Shore. So important had Chestertown become in 1775 that the Council of Safety met there on the 20th of October of that year and remained in session there for about a week. The Kent muster rolls bear names of about 1,500 of her citizens who volunteered for service against Great Britain. These volunteers composed the Thirteenth Battalion, commanded by Col. Richard Graves, and the Twenty-seventh Battalion, under Col. Donaldson Yeates.

When the call for minute men was issued in January, 1776, Kent County furnished a company consisting of four officers, four sergeants, four corporals, one surgeon, one fifer, one drummer and seventy men "fit for duty." Capt. William Henry was in command. They marched from Chestertown on the 29th of January, 1776, and reached Northampton Court House, Virginia, on the 12th of February. The following report to the Council of Safety at Annapolis is interesting to Kent countians as it shows that Kent County's minute men were the first to reach Northampton, where they had gone to assist the Virginia troops repel the threatened British invasion:

HEADQUARTERS, NORTHAMPTON C. H., VA.
Feby. 28th, 1776.

Honble. Gent'l.

The company from Kent County arrived here on the 12th instant and the company from Queen Anne's County on the 14th in good health and spirits. . . .

Gent'l yr. Obd't. hble. Servt's,
JAMES KENT
WILLIAM HENRY

TO THE
COUNCIL OF SAFETY
ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Capt. James Kent was in command of the Queen Anne's company.

At Chestertown in 1707 the first free school in Kent County was established, it being under the supervision of the rector of St. Paul's Parish. It was the nucleus which later, 1723, developed into the Kent County Free School and still later, 1782, into that greater institution of learning—Washington College.

No historical sketch of this old county would be complete without mention of the Quakers who at one time formed a large part of the population. Their meeting house, which is in ruins now, stands near Lynch. It was built about 1690.

A well-known port of entry twenty years prior to the laying out of Baltimore, Chestertown was the center of the trade for the upper Eastern Shore. Here the vessels came with the tea and supplies from foreign lands and loaded tobacco and furs for England. Like Annapolis on the Western Shore, Chestertown was the center of the social world of the Eastern Shore, and to read of delightful entertaining by the "Colonial Dames" is one of the pleasures of occasional contemplation of the history of this quaint old town. Chestertown is now a prosperous town, and is on the finest roads in the United States. These roads cover the whole County of Kent and all of the county can be reached by automobiles.

Gracious, dignified, simple in habits, elegant in tastes, there was no higher type of civilization than that exemplified by the residents of Kent County in the colonial days.

Percy G. Skinner

HUBBARD PLACE

BUILT 1765

NO finer example of colonial homes of Maryland can be found in the State than that of Wilbur W. Hubbard, banker, fertilizer manufacturer, and financier. Here Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard entertain in true Eastern Shore style, and their many friends, including artists and architects of distinction, claim this beautiful residence to be a fine example of restoration work and a monument to the intelligent appreciation and good taste of Mr. Hubbard and his wife.

From the time the house was built to the present day, a number of distinguished men in State and nation have dwelt within its historic walls. In searching the title chain you will learn of Col. Thomas Smythe, the first merchant in Chestertown, one of the Justices of the Kent County Court from 1757 to 1769, a member of the Provincial Convention in 1776, and of the Association of Freemen of Maryland. He was a member of the Council of Safety and did splendid service during the Revolutionary War in providing munitions for the troops enlisted in Kent. Col. Smythe died at "Trumpington," having lived to the great age of ninety-one years. You will learn of the distinguished lawyer, Thomas Bed-

SCENE IN DINING ROOM

ingfield Hands; of the two United States Senators who lived there—Robert Wright, Senator from 1801 to 1806, when he resigned his seat in the Senate to become Governor of Maryland, and Ezekiel F. Chambers, Senator from 1826 to 1834, and afterward Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District. It was here that Judge Chambers lived for forty-eight years and entertained many distinguished men of his day.

As in some charming old tome we have the story of the County of Kent, as well as that of Chestertown, woven closely around this old house. The story has for its setting a quaint old English colony town, which was laid out on the banks of the Chester River, one of the prettiest rivers of the Province of Maryland. From the street we approach the house over pavement laid 140 years ago and through which the violets push up their charming flowers. The boxwood hugs up close to the old English brick of which the house is built. The big brass knocker on the front door; the wide hall with its keystoned arches and mahogany stairway spreading its leisurely length past the grandfather's clock; the hand-carving on walls and mantels; the doors with dropped silver handles and broken pediment above, where might well be placed the bust of Pallas; mahogany furniture, spinet, dulcimer, and low-boy haunting the spots where Thomas Smythe himself might have placed them. These are the evidences that impress you with the colonial atmosphere of this old home. The accompanying illustrations give not only the river view of the mas-

sive porch, with Ionic columns, but also the approach through the iron gates. Truly, Mr. Hubbard, with his widely known business ability, has, in restoring this old mansion, been a more beneficent owner than any since its builder, and has established one of the most delightful homes of the Eastern Shore.

A VIEW OF THE HALL

Mr. Hubbard is descended from Adley Hubbard, who came to Maryland from Essex County, England, in 1660. He received a grant of a large tract of land on the Sassafras River in what is now known as Cecil County. He called his grant "Hubbard's Delight," more recently known as "Ward's Hill."

Mrs. Hubbard is descended from Col. William Ross, Col. William Evans and Major Glenn, Revolutionary Officers. She is the daughter of Judge James Evans Ross, whose ancestors belonged to Clan Ross of Scotland.

CAMELL'S WORTHMORE

Surveyed 1682

"CAMELL'S WORTHMORE" originally contained 1,150 acres of land and was surveyed in 1682. It is now the property of the Rev. Sewell S. Hepburn, a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who was rector for a number of years of the old parish of St. Paul's, Kent, and still laboring in the Master's vineyard as rector of Christ Church, I. U.

Around the house the boxwood hedge is laid out like the old English gardens and the beautiful wainscoting and hand-carved doors and mantels of the house attest the elegant taste of the Angiers, the builders and owners in Revolutionary times. John Angier bought this property from James Tilghman, of Philadelphia, 1767, and left it to his son, Thomas, who sold it to his brother, Unit Angier, at whose death the property passed into the hands of Thomas Hepburn. Mary, his daughter, dying intestate, the estate became the property of the present owner.

James Tilghman was Chancellor of the Province of Pennsylvania and father of Col. Tench Tilghman, Washington's aide-de-camp. In

old St. Paul's Churchyard James Tilghman lies buried and his tomb is plainly marked, giving some of the history of his life.

The last of the Angiers who owned "Camell's Worthmore" lies buried in the garden back of the old colonial home. The Angier, Brooks and Medford families were large landowners and with few exceptions were members of the parish in which they lived—Shrewsbury.

"Thornton," 1,000 acres, the Brooks property, and "Buckingham," another large grant, 1,300 acres, were among grants in this neighborhood that date back to the very earliest in the Province. "Drayton," a manor of 1,200 acres, granted Charles James in 1677, and long the home of the Janvier family, was not far distant to the west. This same Charles James received a grant for 100 acres in 1687 which he gave to the vestry of Shrewsbury Parish. This property was called "Mayford."

"Denbigh," 700 acres, granted in 1671, at the head of Churn Creek, and "The Grange," 900 acres, granted the same year to John James, on the north side of Still Pond Creek, were famous colonial homes in their day.

In 1765 the Assembly passed an act erecting Chester Parish out of St. Paul's and Shrewsbury Parishes, authorizing the purchase of two acres of land "at or near the cross roads at the place called I. U. and a parish church to be built on the land. The land and church to cost not more than 130,000 pounds of tobacco." The chapel of ease was already built at Chestertown. The first vestrymen were: Aaron Alford, Macall Medford, Joseph Rasin, Thomas Perkins, St. Leger Everett and William Ringgold.

COMEGYS HOUSE

BUILT 1708

COMMANDING a splendid view of the upper Chester River and the surrounding country, this rare example of Dutch architecture that has been handed down to the present generation is now the home of Dr. F. N. Sheppard and his wife. Mrs. Sheppard is a descendant of Alethia, daughter of the William Comegys who built the house and who was the second son of Cornelius Comegys, the emigrant. The woodwork and the wainscoting are very pretty and the great fireplaces suggest the many famous dinners served there to guests in the long ago. It is a charming old home and the lawn, originally terraced and hedged with boxwood, extends to the waters of the Chester River. At the time the house was built there was a ferry, ("Collister's Ferry"), across the Chester River at this point and just across the river in Queen Anne's County William Crump took up a large tract of land he called "Crumpton." It was for this property that the present village of Crumpton was named.

For years there had been a well-established route for travel from

"Williamstadt," (now Oxford), Talbot County, to Philadelphia and the Northern settlements. That route led past the old Wye Church in Talbot, through Queen Anne's to Crumpton, over the Chester to Kent, across that county to Georgetown on the Sassafras, over the Sassafras and by way of Bohemia to "Head of Elk," and so to Philadelphia.

Cornelius Comegys, the emigrant, petitioned the Maryland Provincial Assembly in 1671 to be made a naturalized citizen. In his petition he states that he was born in "Lexmont, belonging to the states of Holland." Millimety, his wife, was born in Barnevelt "under the domain of the said states," and Cornelius, their oldest son, was born in Virginia. Their other children, Elizabeth, William and Hannah, were born in Maryland. Cornelius Comegys emigrated to Virginia about 1660 and came to Maryland about 1663, receiving his first grant, 400 acres, called "Comegys Delight," in that year. Several thousand acres were later acquired by him. Some of the tracts bore the following names: "The Grove," "Vienna," "Adventure," "Fernando," "Sewall" or "Utreck," "Poplar Plains," "Andover" and "Comegys' Choice." He was made a member of the Commissioners of Justice for Kent County in 1676 and was evidently a man of large interests.

Close family ties connected the descendants of Cornelius Comegys with the Wallis family, also with the Everett and Thomas families. To Nathaniel Everett was granted "Fair Harbor," "Adventure" and "New Forest." To Samuel Wallis, "Partnership," "Conclusion" and "Boothbie's Fortune" were granted. In 1659 William Thomas was granted "Kedgerton," 1,000 acres, and "Mt. Hermon," 890 acres. Jesse Comegys, an officer in the Revolutionary War, son of William and Ann Cosden Comegys, married Mary Everett. They had three children, Cornelius, who was a lieutenant in the U. S. Army; Maria, who married Augustine Boyer; and Sarah Everett Comegys, who married John Wallis. Their eldest son, Francis Ludolph Wallis, was commissioned August 6, 1846, captain of the Columbia Hussars, a company of cavalry attached to the Eighth Regimental Cavalry District, Maryland Militia. Captain Wallis married Emily Thomas, daughter of William Thomas, of "Mt. Hermon." Their only daughter, Mrs.Elizabeth Thomas Wallis Schutt, of Washington, inherited "Mt. Hermon" and still owns the property.

CAULK'S FIELD HOUSE

BUILT 1743

ESPECIALLY interesting is this old farm to those fond of stories of the wars with Great Britain, for here in the moonlight of a hot summer night, August 31, 1814, in the early morning hours was fought a battle that was singularly important—the Battle of Caulk's Field. Capt. Sir Peter Parker, on his ship, the Menelaus, was sent up the bay to capture if possible the Kent County troops, known as the Twenty-first Regiment of Maryland Militia, then under the command of Col. Philip Reed. During the engagement Captain Parker received a mortal wound and died while being carried on the shoulders of his men back to his ship. Fourteen of the British soldiers were killed and twenty-nine wounded. Only three of Colonel Reed's men were wounded, and those not seriously. The old "Caulk's Field" house, now owned by E. J. Watson, was built in 1743, and on the east gable the date is traced in the wall with the brick.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

BUILT 1713

SURROUNDED by giant oaks and sycamores, by boxwood and fragrant pines, by tombs of the humble and the rich, St. Paul's stands today a real monument to the energy and religious zeal of those Church of England members who settled in Kent in the colonial days of more than 200 years ago. Rev. Dr. Ethan Allen in his manuscript covering the early Church in Maryland says: "St. Paul's Parish was organized in 1692, but as early perhaps as 1650 there was a church called St. Peter's at Church Creek, [Kent], near Gray's Inn Creek, two miles from Chester River near the town of New Yarmouth, which was on land sold by Major Thomas Ringgold. A burial ground is there and graves well arched over."

The building of St. Paul's Church on the present spot in 1713 was to replace an old structure which had stood on the site ever since the

"Establishment." Whether any church had existed there prior to that date is a matter yet undetermined. At the time the English Church was established Thomas Smythe, of "Trumpington;" William Frisby, of "Hinchingham;" Charles Tilden, of "Great Oak Manor;" Michael Miller, of "Arcadia;" Hans Hanson, of "Kimbolton," and Simon Wilmer, of "Stepney," were among the principal freeholders in the parish and they were elected as vestrymen. They lived many miles from St. Paul's; in fact, all sections of this old parish were represented in the selection of these gentlemen as vestrymen.

St. Paul's was one of the thirty parishes that were laid out in the Province of Maryland in accordance with the Act of Assembly of 1692. This parish, with that of Shrewsbury, covered all the territory now within the geographical bounds of Kent County. The dividing line between these two parishes was at that time taken as the boundary between Cecil County and Kent County and to determine the location of this line an Act of Assembly was passed April 4, 1697, authorizing a survey to be made. Capt. Edward Blay, representing Shrewsbury, and Michael Miller, representing St. Paul's, were appointed to be present at the running of the line between the parishes. They were to report to the Assembly "with a fair demonstration of the division line which is to be lined out by a line of marked trees." Simon Willmore, [Wilmer], then Surveyor of Kent County, was to do the surveying. They determined upon a line running from what is now known as Goose Hill to the headwaters of Churn Creek.

There is an old building called the "Vestry House," which has the date 1766 worked in the bricks of the gable, that stands at the western entrance of the cemetery. The land on which this old building stands was bought of Thomas Ringgold and the deed recites—"this five acres of land is bought for the benefit of air and shade to the parishioners and their horses round the church in attendance on divine service and for the building of a vestry house thereon and any other parish use whatever."

HINCHINGHAM

Surveyed 1659

"HINCHINGHAM" was granted in 1659 to Thomas Hynson for 2,200 acres, lying along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay and extending north from Swan Creek. Thomas Hynson was then in the 39th year of his age and so well liked by the Governor of the Province that in 1655 he had been made High Sheriff of the County of Kent. He lived on Eastern Neck Island and with his friend, Joseph Wickes, had received grants for all the land on that island. In all Thomas Hynson owned 3,600 acres of land in Kent County. It was at his house that court was held for Kent County, February 1, 1655, the following Justices being present: Philip Connor, Capt. Joseph Wickes, Thomas Ringgold, Capt. John Russell, William Elliott and Henry Carvil. Thomas Hynson's son, Thomas Hynson, Jr., was made Sheriff of Talbot County, April 20, 1666. With the granting of the Manor of "Hinchingham" to Thomas Hynson he became interested in that section of the county and it is supposed made it his home for at least a few of his latter years.

Along the banks of Swan Creek quite a number of places were

granted and from Eastern Neck Island a road was made in 1675 to Swan Creek Road by Isaac Winchester, who had been appointed overseer of highways for the Lower Hundred. The road was ten feet wide and made "cleared and good from Joseph Wickes' house to Swan Creek roade." This was probably the first road built in the county of this width that covered so many miles. It led north from Eastern Neck Island through the present town of Rock Hall and thence across the head of Swan Creek.

From "Hinchingham" was sold off several tracts prior to 1722 and one of these, 700 acres, was bought by William Frisby, a member of the vestry of St. Paul's Parish. William Frisby was a man of great prominence in the Colony and to him the Maryland Assembly entrusted the mission of presenting to the Lord Bishop of London and the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations at London, England, for their approval, the copy of the Act of Assembly establishing the Church of England by law in the Province of Maryland. To Nathaniel Hynson, High Sheriff of the County of Kent, in 1718, 320 acres were sold by Thomas Tolley, who had bought it from Thomas Hynson. This property, now owned by Mrs. Harriet Westcott Hill, is part of "Hinchingham" and came to her from her father, the late George B. Westcott, of Chestertown.

In the neighborhood of "Hinchingham" are several tracts of land the names of which are still familiar. "Great Oak Manor," 2,000 acres, surveyed 15th of August, 1658, for Josiah Fendall; "Arcadia," 1,500 acres, surveyed 18th of May, 1680, for Michael Miller; "Buck Neck," 550 acres, surveyed 1st of August, 1666, for Joseph Hopkins.

"Broadnox," a large tract of land on Langford Bay, was the property of Thomas Broadnox, a man of considerable importance in the earliest days of Kent. From him the property was acquired by Robert Dunn, a friend and adviser of the Proprietary. This old place, with its manor house built about 1708, remained in the Dunn family until long after the Revolutionary War. Robert Dunn was a vestryman of St. Paul's Church.

SUFFOLK

SURVEYED 1681

LAMB'S MEADOWS

SURVEYED 1691

PEARCE LAMB came into Kent with the first of the settlers; in 1683 he obtained a grant for "Lamb's Range," and in 1694 another grant for a tract which he named "Lamb's Meadows." These two tracts were in the possession of Pearce Lamb's son, Francis Lamb, when he married Rosamund Beck at St. Paul's Church in Kent County, April 6, 1714, one year after the church was built.

One of the descendants of Francis and Rosamund Lamb is B. Howard Haman, of the Baltimore bar. Mr. Haman's Kent County residence is "Suffolk," surveyed for 742 acres in 1681 for James Stavely. It is situated about two miles from Kennedyville. For many years it was the home of Mr. Haman's grandfather, the late Benjamin Howard, a descendant of Matthew Howard, of Anne Arundel County, who came to Kent in 1725 and lived at "Howard's Adventure." Matthew Howard's ancestor came to Maryland from Virginia about 1660. Mr. Haman has for years been the foremost advocate of scientific oyster culture in Maryland as a means of conserving and vastly increasing the yield of the public fisheries and supplement-

ing the revenues of the State. He was the author of the law under which the oyster beds of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries were first surveyed and mapped by the State and federal governments. Mr. Haman's father was Dr. James Haman, a native of Delaware, and a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Haman was associated for several years in the practice of medicine with Dr. William S. Maxwell, of Still Pond, Kent County. Dr. Haman's paternal grandfather was a yeoman farmer in the East Riding of Yorkshire, England, who emigrated to America from Hull about 1789.

This part of Kent County has several large grants of the earliest dates, among them being "Stone Town," granted in 1658 to Richard Stone for 500 acres. In 1722, 100 acres of this property belonged to Philip Rasin. Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Price now own and reside at "Stoneton."

"Suffolk" lies in Shrewsbury Parish, near the old parish church. In the old churchyard is buried Gen. John Cadwallader, the devoted personal friend of George Washington.

TRUMPINGTON

Surveyed 1658

AT the extreme end of Kent County where the Chester River joins the Chesapeake Bay stands today an old home for the charms of which the traveler would have far to seek to find the equal. Four hundred acres were in the original grant to Thomas South when it was surveyed for him in September, 1658.

"Trumpington" is now owned by Mrs. Julia Willson Ringgold and Natilie O. Willson, her brother, they having inherited the place at the death of their father, Richard Bennett Willson. His mother was Anna Maria Smythe, daughter of Col. Thomas Smythe, the third of his line as owner of "Trumpington." Thomas Smythe, the first in Kent, was a member of the vestry of St. Paul's Parish and gave to that parish, 1706, a beautiful silver chalice and patten with the initials "T. S." engraved on them. These two pieces are in use in that church today. Thomas Smythe died in 1719 and left his property, of which "Trumpington" was a part, to his son and daughter, Thomas and Martha. He also owned a lot in the old town of 'New Yarmouth," part of "Hinchingham" and the "Plaines."

WICKCLIFFE

Surveyed 1658

"WICKCLIFFE" is one of the most interesting properties in Kent and is now owned by James W. Stevens, a native of Kent. In 1658 a grant was issued to Joseph Wickes and Thomas Hynson jointly for 800 acres by the name of "Wickcliffe," described as "lying on the east side of the Eastern Bay called Eastern Neck." Thomas Hynson's heirs surrendered their rights in the property in later years for a consideration and it was from the direct heirs of Joseph Wickes that Mr. Stevens bought the estate, it having been in the Wickes family for about 240 years.

From the very earliest records of the Isle of Kent down to the present day, with numerous representatives, the Wickeses have held a prominent place in the affairs of Maryland. It is generally supposed that Joseph Wickes was of Puritan stock, but no records are at hand to prove this. At the age of thirty-six, in 1656, he was appointed one of the Justices of the County of Kent. Twenty years after, 1676, he was of the "quorum," John Hynson and Cornelius Comegys sitting with him in court.

With Thomas Hynson, Joseph Wickes was granted all the land that comprised Eastern Neck Island—"Wickcliffe," 800 acres, "The Market Place" and "Partnership," in all, according to a resurvey in 1674, 1,740 acres.

The geographical location of "Wickcliffe" is ideal, lying at the extreme end of Eastern Neck Island, its shores washed by the Chester River. From the broad veranda miles and miles of the Chesapeake Bay and Chester River afford a picture rarely equaled in Maryland.

Here in the good old Colony days the swan, wild goose and canvas-back duck tempted the visitor at the hospitable table of the Wickeses. No less frequently upon this table were to be found the diamond-back terrapin, the oyster and soft crab, cooked and flavored by old "mammy," whose excellence in the art had been reached by constant practice in endeavoring to tempt the appetites of the "marster" and "mistus."

As vessels came into the Chester River from England or France or Guinea, they passed close to this old house and the messages brought over from the mother country made the sails of the ships a doubly welcome sight. On a point of land lying well within the mouth of the Chester River and projecting from the shores of "Wickcliffe" is a clump of virgin pine trees which can be seen for miles. This point is known as Hail Point, so called from the fact that Lord Baltimore's naval officer in those early days had all vessels stop here before going up the river. This was done for inspection, both for customs and for health.

TALBOT COUNTY

1662

TALBOT COUNTY, named for Grace Talbot, a sister of Cecilius Calvert and wife of Sir Robert Talbot, was erected about 1662, though the authority for creating the county has never been found. It embraced all of the territory south and east of the Chester River, the Kent Narrows, Eastern Bay and Chesapeake Bay and north of the Choptank River. These boundaries were confirmed by the lines followed in laying out the parishes of the county in accordance with an Act of the Assembly of 1692, and not until 1706 did they change, save, in 1695, when Kent Island was taken into Talbot County. It will be interesting to the reader to quote in part the Act of 1706, Chapter 3, which gave to the county its present lines:

> That the bounds of Talbot County shall contain Sharp's Island, Choptank Island and all the land on the north side of the Great Choptank River, and extend itself up the said river to Tuckahoe Bridge, and from thence with a straight line to the mill commonly called and known by the name of Swetnam's Mill, and thence down the south side of Wye River to the mouth thereof, and from thence down the bay (including Poplar Island) to the first beginning, also Bruff's Island in Wye River.

Whether by proclamation or by Act of Assembly this county was erected it is not now known, but on February 18, 1662, Moses Stagwell was made Sheriff of the county and the machinery of the county government began to be assembled around this chief officer. In pursuance of the usual form issued to the Sheriff he called together all the freemen of the county to elect deputies to the General Assembly. They then elected four delegates of their peers. The Governor appointed the new commissioners of justice and their appointment was confirmed by the Assembly. They were Lieut. Richard Woolman, James Ringgold, William Coursey, Thomas South, Seth Forster and

Thomas Hynson, Junior. Four were of the "quorum," any one of whom with two of the other Justices held court for the trial of those cases that were not properly heard by the Council sitting at St. Mary's City, which at that time constituted the highest court of the Province.

In order to further provide for the machinery of a county, Talbot was divided into nine "hundreds" as follows: Tred Haven, Bollingbrooke, Mill, Tuckahoe, Worrell, Bay, Island, Chester and Lower Hundred of Kent Island. The localities now known as Miles River Neck and Wye Island were "Island Hundred," and "Bay Hundred" is to this day a voting district of this old county.

To the student of the history of the Province this particular county seems to draw around its delightful colonial period the charm of an enchanted land. Beautiful rivers washed its shores. The wealth of foliage, the deep green of the fields and the sparkling blue of the waters gave a charming background to the inbound ship as she came up stream in the bright sunshine with every sheet drawing, her sails filled with the strong breeze of the Chesapeake. We can, in the mind's eye, picture the visitors disembarking over the side of the ship while those on shore wave to them a welcome made genuine by the long years of separation from friends and relations. It is to such pictures of delightful surroundings that Talbot owes the recent migration to her shores of the many wealthy and cultured people who in these modern times of "hurry and drive" have bought there old manors and there, in addition to the natural delights, find for neighbors a country folk who have descended from the gentry of the colonial days.

Talbot, like her sister county, Dorchester, has lost much of her island area by subsidence and by the encroachment of the waters of the bay. Poplar Island and Sharp's Island are nearly covered by water and much of the land of Tilghman's Island has disappeared into the waters of the Chesapeake. So, today, where fields of grain and orchards of fruit-bearing trees once pleased the eye of the farmers, are miles of shallow water or marshes in which the muskrat builds his "house" and the redwing swings in the balmy breeze perched upon the tall cat-tails that grow luxuriantly there. The submerging of these lands has been going on very slowly for years and the loss to the county in area has been very considerable. The farm lands are rich and produce fine crops of wheat, corn, potatoes and hay. The raising

of blooded horses, cattle and sheep has its important place in the agricultural life of the county and it is a pleasing sight to see the green fields dotted with flocks of thoroughbred cattle and sheep.

In 1679 provision was made for a permanent court house for Talbot. The following record of that year is of interest: "The Commissioners have ordered Elizabeth Winkles to have the court house which is now used to keep court in, with the room adjoining until the latter end of November next, in consideration we, the Commissioners are to allow her as we think fit." Continuing, the record further states: "The Court hath ordered Major William Coursey to treat with Richard Swetnam to come to the aforesaid house to keep ordinary, [tavern], as also to treat concerning the building of a court house." Major Coursey must have succeeded in his mission, for we find in 1680 that a court house was built upon land purchased of Jonathan Hopkinson which was located on Skipton Creek, near the headwaters of the Wye River. In this building court was held for the first time in 1682 or 1683. Later a "prison" was built. Around these two buildings there grew up quite a village which was called by Act of the Assembly of 1686 "Yorke," evidently in honor of the ancient town in England of the same name.

Oxford was laid out in accordance with the "Act for the erection of necessary towns" in 1684, and in 1707 the county-seat was moved to that thriving town. The last session of the court at "Yorke" was on the 17th day of June, 1707, and the first session at Oxford was held on the 19th of August following. Oxford became a port of entry and to its harbor vessels came from England, Guinea, Barbadoes and the ports along the Atlantic Coast. In 1726 Samuel Chamberlaine became the royal Naval Officer and he was succeeded at his death by his son, Thomas, and he by his brother, Samuel. With the removal of the county court to Oxford, the days of "Yorke" were numbered. In 1710 we find the court again ready to move to a more favorable location and there was talk of moving to "Pitt's Bridge." This bridge spanned a small body of water which was a branch of Third Haven, [Tred Avon], River. Of recent years this bridge has been known as the Tanyard Bridge, so called for a tannery once located there. "Pitt's Bridge" was on part of a tract of land granted to John Pitt, called "Pitt's Chance." The following interesting record in the rent

rolls of Lord Baltimore, (1724), shows that "Pitt's Chance" contained 400 acres of land and the yearly rent was eight shillings:

> 400/0/8/0 Pitt's Chance, surveyed 24th January, 1665, for John Pitt at the head of the Northwest branch of Tread Avon Creek, adjoining the land called Westmoreland, Possest by Mr. John Needles for Ann Darby in England, a daughter of Mr. Edward Man.

The Assembly authorized on the 4th day of November, 1710, the building of a "court house for Talbot County at Armstrong's Old Field near Pitt His Bridge." This tract belonged to Philemon Armstrong and comprised about two acres. How soon after the passage of the act before the building was erected is not known, but the first session of court in the new building near Pitt's Bridge was held on the 17th of June, 1712. Here, as at "Yorke," a village soon sprang up and became known as "Talbot Court House." The name applied to both the building and the village, that being the custom in those days. That was the last move of the court. The village continued to be called "Talbot Court House" until 1788, at which time it was changed to Easton, and is still the county-seat of Talbot County. Easton is now a flourishing town of 4,000 inhabitants and has the largest bank deposits of any town on the Eastern Shore. Here is located the Cathedral of the Diocese of Easton of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It is in the old parish of St. Peter's which had for its parish church for many years Whitemarsh Church, long since abandoned, the ruins of which form one of the old colonial landmarks of Talbot.

Here, too, is the Friends Meeting House, built in 1684 on what is now the outskirts of Easton. It is said to be the oldest building for public worship of wooden construction in the United States. If some magic power could give the old structure the gift of speech, what wonderful tales it could tell of Wenlock Christison, George Fox and William Penn, all of whom are said to have worshipped beneath its roof. It is also stated that Charles Calvert, third Lord Baltimore, and Lady Calvert attended meeting there on one occasion. During the early years of Talbot County the Friends had no meeting house, but conducted their meetings at the homes of members. A very large part of the population of Talbot County in 1681 consisted of Quakers, and William Penn, realizing what a stronghold these members of his

faith would make, established the Tred Avon Monthly Meeting as a branch of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. A record in the Minutes of Tred Avon Monthly Meeting shows that in 1681 it was decided to build a new meeting house upon Third Haven Creek.

The building was begun in 1682 and the first assembling of Quakers in the new meeting house was on the 24th day of October, 1684. It is this building that is spoken of above as standing today. The records of the Quakers are complete in detail and furnish one of the sources of the most accurate colonial data to be found in Maryland. The records of Tred Avon Meeting are now in the Library of the Maryland Historical Society.

Talbot furnished her quota of volunteers during the Revolution and one of her sons, Col. Tench Tilghman, as aide-de-camp to Gen. George Washington, is proudly referred to as one of the greatest soldiers ever sent from the Eastern Shore. His famous ride from Yorktown to Philadelphia, carrying to Congress the news of the surrender of Cornwallis, is an ever-pleasing story and has been told in verse by one of Maryland's clergymen.

In the war with Great Britain, 1812–14, a battle was fought at St. Michaels in which the British were defeated.

Talbot has furnished four Governors of the State, Edward Lloyd, the fifth of that name in Maryland, June 9, 1809–November 16, 1811; Samuel Stevens, December 9, 1822–January 9, 1826; Daniel Martin, and Philip Francis Thomas, January 3, 1848–January 6, 1851.

WYE HOUSE

Built about 1781

SITUATED on the banks of the south prong of Wye River and Lloyd's Creek is one of the most noted and historical estates on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, "Wye House," the home of the Lloyd family for eight generations. Edward Lloyd I came to the Colony of Virginia from Wales in 1623, and was a burgess in the Virginia Assembly until 1649, when he came to Maryland. Mr. Lloyd was a member of the General Assembly of Maryland which met at Preston-on-the-Patuxent between 1650 and 1658. On the 20th of April, 1650, the district embracing Providence was erected into a county and given the name of Anne Arundel. Edward Lloyd was made "commander" of this county by Governor Stone. On the organization of Talbot County in 1661, having large landed estates there, he removed to that county and built his residence on Wye River, calling it "Wye House."

The original "Wye House" was burned by British marauders on the night of March 13, 1781, and was robbed of many of its treasures,

both paintings and plate. All the records of the Lloyd family up to that time perished in the flames. Later, after the war was over, several pieces of plate bearing the arms of the family were returned by the Crown. Of the original manor house only a fragment remains and is used as an outbuilding. A record states that the present "Wye House" was rebuilt by Edward Lloyd IV at once after the original house was destroyed by the British. This colonial structure, erected 135 years ago, remains intact and appears to be as solid now as when first erected.

The main building of two lofty stories, including the hall, drawing-room, parlor, dining-room and chambers, all of noble proportions, is connected by corridors with one-story wings in which are the library on one side and the domestic offices on the other, presenting a pleasing façade of 200 feet, crowning an eminence which commands a view of the lawn and leafy avenue and over the woods to Wye River and the bay. Back of the manor house is an old garden with many beautiful winding walks bounded by boxwood hedges, a stroll through which would convince one that landscape gardening has long been a study of art, and there was much time and money spent in making these features of the old homestead most attractive. To one side of the garden is a beautiful stretch of green sward, bounded on each side by hedges, at the end of which is an imposing building—the old orangery. To the left of this structure is an arch of brick, flanked on each side by a wall fast crumbling away. This arch marks the entrance to the burying ground at Wye and on each side stand two gigantic trees like two sentinels guarding those who are slumbering in peace in the graveyard, which contains the remains of many generations of Lloyds.

There seems to be some uncertainty as to the area of the original grant, but the present owner of "Wye House," Charles Howard Lloyd, inherited from his father over 5,000 acres. Another record referring to the landed estates of Edward Lloyd I in Talbot County speaks of the celebrated tract called "Hîr-Dîr-Lloyd," containing 3,050 acres, now known as Oxford Neck, the patent for which bears the date of January 10, 1659.

THE RICH NECK

SURVEYED 1651

OF all the colonial manors of Maryland few maintained a position of greater prominence and importance during the days of the Colony than "The Rich Neck." This tract of land is a peninsula lying between the eastern branch of the Chesapeake Bay and St. Michael's River with Tilghman's Creek making in from St. Michael's River on the south, and furnishes one of the finest land-locked harbors on the bay. From the character of the soil of this peninsula it well deserves its name, as there are few tracts in this State which today can boast of soil more fertile.

Across St. Michael's River to the east and at the mouth of the Wye River was "Doncaster," the earliest county-seat of Talbot. In full view from "The Rich Neck" to the west across Eastern Bay is the site of the first seat of government for the Isle of Kent, and still farther beyond that, across the Chesapeake, is Annapolis, which became the capital of the Colony in 1692. This tract was surveyed for Capt. William Mitchell, October 20, 1651, by Robert Clark, then Surveyor-

General of the Province, and contained 1,000 acres. Captain Mitchell sold the tract to Phillip Land, the High Sheriff of St. Mary's County. In 1684 Mr. Land sold it to Capt. James Murphy, the consideration being 104 pounds sterling, "lawful money of England," 23,000 pounds of good tobacco and two tracts on Sassafras Creek—one tract of 1,000 acres and the other of 500 acres, both lying in Cecil County. James Murphy occupied this land from 1684 to 1698, and during the entire time was a Justice of Talbot County. At the time of his death he was president of the "quorum." He married a daughter of Capt. Ralph Dawson, Mabel, who was reputed to be the beauty of the Colony. By his will he bequeathed his property to his widow. She married Matthew Tilghman Ward and died in 1702, leaving one child, a daughter, Mary Ward, who died at the age of twenty-two years.

Matthew Tilghman Ward, for his second wife, married Margaret Lloyd, a daughter of Col. Philemon Lloyd. He became one of the Justices of Talbot. Upon the death of James Murphy he was made Speaker of the Assembly, which position he occupied for one or two terms and was then appointed member of the Council. At the time of his death, in 1741, he was President of the Council, and Lieutenant-General of the militia of the Colony, the two positions ranking next to that of Governor.

Matthew Tilghman Ward left no descendants and by his will bequeathed "The Rich Neck," after the death of his widow, to Matthew Tilghman, a cousin, who occupied the property until his death in 1790. Matthew Tilghman, like his predecessors, had been a Justice of the Court, Speaker of the Assembly, a Delegate to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, and was undoubtedly prevented by sickness from signing the Declaration of Independence. He was president of the First Constitutional Convention of the State and a member of the Committee of Safety during the Revolutionary War.

In 1906 this manor was purchased by the late Henry H. Pearson, Jr., from Joseph B. Seth, the then owner. Mr. Pearson restored and beautified it until it is one of the show places of the State.

PERRY CABIN

LESS than a mile north of St. Michael's, fronting on St. Michael's, (Miles), River, is "Perry Cabin," the home for many years of the bachelor brothers, Samuel and John Needles Hambleton, both of whom were pursers in the United States Navy, and where they lived, when not on duty, with their two maiden sisters, the Misses Lydia and Louisa Hambleton. Samuel Hambleton, (1777–1851), was appointed in 1806 a purser in the United States Navy by President Thomas Jefferson.

During the War of 1812, at the battle of Lake Erie, when the flagship of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the "Lawrence," was disabled by the sickness of the crew, he volunteered to work a gun and while thus aiding in achieving the victory was severely wounded by a cannon ball which fell upon him from the rigging. This estate, now the home of C. H. Fogg, is only a short distance from "Martingham," the earliest seat, (1659), of the Hambletons. Samuel Hambleton was born at "Martingham," and the estate is still owned by a member of the family. Here also lived John Needles Hambleton, (1798–1870), who faithfully served his country for fifty years as purser in the United States Navy.

Little more than a mile south of St. Michael's, and about two miles from "Perry Cabin," beautifully situated on Spencer Creek, where it empties into St. Michael's River, is "Spencer Hall," the seat, for several generations, of the Spencers, some of whom gained distinction in the various walks of life, but none of the name now reside in Talbot County. The family was of Norman origin and of noble degree, and can be easily traced to the eleventh century, being descended from Robert le Despencer, Lord Stewart of the household of William the Conqueror, and one of the Norman barons whose name is in the Roll of Battle Abbey, and in the great Domesday Book appears as Robertus Dispensator.

In 1657 there came to Northumberland County, Virginia, Nicholas and Robert Spencer, brothers, of Cople, Bedfordshire, descended in the seventh generation from Robert Spencer, A.D. 1475, younger sons of Nicholas Spencer and his wife, Mary Gostwick, daughter of Sir Edward Gostwick, and a branch of the Northamptonshire family. They were accompanied by the brothers John and Lawrence Washington, also from Bedfordshire, the former being the great-grandfather of Gen. George Washington.

Nicholas Spencer, by grants and purchases, came into possession of large tracts of land on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 1658 to 1661. He finally settled in Virginia near the Washingtons. He was later known as Col. Nicholas Spencer, and was Secretary of Virginia, 1679–88. Robert Spencer was born in 1635. After removing from Virginia to Barbadoes, where he remained for several years, he came to Maryland in 1678 and settled in Talbot County in 1683. He died prior to April, 1688. He left an only son, James Spencer, born in Barbadoes in 1667, who came to Talbot after his father's death and settled on St. Michael's River. He died in 1714, leaving by his first wife, Isabella, four sons, James Spencer, Jr., the founder of "Spencer Hall," Charles, William and Hugh Spencer, and two daughters, Alice and Mary Spencer. The last male owner of "Spencer Hall" was Col. Perry Spencer, (1750–1822), and the property finally passed out of the hands of the Spencers in 1837. The Spencers were never numerous in Talbot, and but one of that family is now living in Maryland, Col. Richard H. Spencer, of Baltimore.

THE ANCHORAGE

FIRST BUILT 1732

THE fact that the Miles River is one of the most picturesque of Talbot's waterways was recognized by the early settlers. For this reason many of them chose to select sites on its banks. This river, after flowing about fifteen miles in a southwesterly direction, makes a distinct turn and flows northerly. The Miles River has this feature in common with the Chester and Choptank, which rivers empty into Chesapeake Bay.

According to records a British fleet sailed up the Miles River in 1813 and under cover of darkness attacked the town of St. Michaels. The inhabitants, anticipating the attack, placed lights in the upper stories and on the roofs of their homes; consequently, most of the enemy's shells passed over the village. One shell, however, found a lodging place in a tall chimney, where it remains to this day.

On the upper Miles River are many beautiful homes, but there are few on the Eastern Shore more attractive and home-like than "The Anchorage," the summer home of Milton Campbell, a native of Talbot County now residing in Philadelphia. The earliest record

shows the erection of "The Anchorage" was in 1732, by Rev. John Gordon, a Scotch Episcopal minister who was at that time in charge of the Miles River Parish.

The church stood on the opposite side of the Miles River road, nearly in the center of a field. The parsonage is now the central part of "The Anchorage" building, and was erected in 1732, either by or for the Rev. John Gordon. Just how long this reverend gentleman resided there is not known, but there is a tradition current that he always had an excellent congregation on Sundays, the secret of which may be attributed to the fact that a race-track had been constructed in the rear of the church and after service the congregation adjourned to the track for amusement. This bears out early records that the ministers sent over to the colonies were rather of a sporting class.

Governor Edward Lloyd bought "The Anchorage" before his daughter, Miss Sarah Scott Lloyd, married Commodore Charles Llowndes, U.S.N., and after adding the wings and portico presented it to his daughter at her wedding. Later "The Anchorage" passed into the hands of Gen. Charles A. Chipley, who occupied the property for about fifteen years. Mr. Campbell purchased the property from the Chipley heirs nine years ago and since that time has added very much to the beauty of the place. The attractive features of this homestead are its simplicity, large trees and rolling lawn extending to the river, and the cordial and hospitable hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell.

Just opposite "The Anchorage," on the south bank of the Miles River, is "The Rest," once the home of Admiral Franklin Buchanan, of Confederate fame, commander of the "Virginia" in the first test of naval ironclads. This home is now owned by C. E. Henderson. Just above the long bridge which spans the Miles River is "Myrtle Grove," the home of Charles Goldsborough and one of the old places of Talbot County. The interior of this homestead is colonial and the accompanying picture shows the hall and stairway.

LONG POINT

SURVEYED 1663

ONE year after Talbot became a county of the Province of Maryland, Ralph Elston came from England and obtained a grant to this beautiful tract of land, which lies at the southernmost end of Broad Creek Neck, between Harris Creek on the west and Broad Creek on the east. The following year, 1664, he acquired the adjoining tract, known as "Long Neck." "Long Point" received its name from the point of land which was formerly known as Elston Point, now erroneously called Nelson's Point.

Ralph Elston married, in 1694, Mary Ball, the widow of John Ball, the emigrant. Her son, Benjamin Ball, came into possession of "Long Point," "Long Neck" and "Benjamin's Lot," and prior to 1720 conveyed all of his lands, including the above places, to his brother, Lieut. Thomas Ball, and removed to Kent Island, where he died in 1728. Upon the death of Lieut. Thomas Ball in 1722 the aforesaid lands were inherited by his children, John Ball II and Mary Ball, who became the wife of John Kemp, of Bayside.

"Long Point" was subsequently bought by William Sheild, of Kent County, who had married Rachael Ball, granddaughter of John Ball II, and was occupied by them until the year 1800, when it passed into the possession of the Harrison family of Talbot County, who occupied it for over a hundred years. William Sheild's name appears on the muster roll of Kent County in 1775, he being a private of the first class in the first company of the Thirteenth Battalion. Later he enlisted in Capt. Edward Veazey's Independent Company. In advertising "Long Point" for sale in 1799, William Sheild states that the place "is well adapted to grow wheat, corn and tobacco; remarkable for fishing, fowling and oystering and what renders it still more valuable and agreeable is the healthy situation of the place."

The mansion on "Long Point" was built by Ralph Elston and is now over 200 years old and still tenanted. It is a quaint colonial dwelling house, built of brick, two stories and attic, surmounted by a hip-roof. Two enormous chimneys stand one at each end of the house. The second story has dormer windows.

John Ball, the emigrant, settled in Talbot County about 1686 and bought part of the "Hîr Dîr Lloyd" manor, situated on the eastern side of Third Haven Creek, from Edward Lloyd and was living there in 1688. He died in 1693. His son, Lieut. Thomas Ball, with Samuel Martin, Francis Harrison, Nicholas Goldsborough, Robert Grundy and other gentlemen of Talbot, was one of the jury selected to determine the value of the land to be purchased for the new town of Oxford when it was laid out.

It may be a circumstance deserving of remark that the Ball family of Talbot, in whose possession "Long Point" remained for so many years, has no apparent immediate connection with the Virginia family of that name. The former belonged to an ancient English family seated in County Devon, whose armorial bearings are quite distinct from those of the Virginia Balls.

Like nearly all of the old homes of the colonial period, this house stands close to the water and around it grow the old boxwood, fig trees, horse chestnut and English walnut trees.

THE WILDERNESS

SURVEYED 1683

BUILT in 1815 by Daniel Martin, "The Wilderness" house stands upon a small hill on the shore of the Choptank River. From the observatory one may obtain a view of the Choptank for miles, a scene unrivaled for beauty in this country. In the construction of this house care was taken that haste should not affect the solidity of the building nor mar the finish. The bricks were burnt upon the farm and the mortar made of lime from oyster shells taken from the river and sand from the beach. It is said that the floors were allowed to season a year before the house was occupied. Nicholas Martin, the father of Daniel Martin, who had lived in the original house at "The Wilderness" and had inherited it from his father, Daniel Martin, was a man of prominence in the affairs of Talbot County in the Revolutionary period. He was captain of a company of the Thirty-eighth Battalion of Maryland Militia and served during the entire conflict. He was a member of the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly from 1780 to 1795, and held various offices in the county. He died at "The Wilderness" in 1808.

In 1813, Daniel Martin was a member of the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly and was re-elected to represent Talbot at four succeeding sessions of that body. In 1829 he was elected Governor of the State of Maryland by an anti-Jackson legislature for one year. The succeeding legislature was dominated by a Jackson majority, and chose Thomas King Carroll. The Legislature of 1830, however, again returned to the anti-Jackson side, and elected Martin, January 3, 1831. He died in Talbot, July 11, 1831, in the middle of his second term. Gov. Daniel Martin married, in 1816, Mary Clare Mackubin, of Annapolis. To her and his two daughters Governor Martin left "The Wilderness." One of the daughters, Eveline L. Martin, married, in 1839, John W. Martin, who then bought the place. "The Wilderness" is now the home of J. Ramsey Speer, formerly of Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Speer has done much to beautify the old estate and restore it to its former fertility and productiveness as a plantation. Mr. and Mrs. Speer are cordial hosts and "The Wilderness" by their hospitality has regained its former place in the social life of Talbot County.

From Chancellor's Point, the extreme southern point of Talbot County, around which the Choptank makes an abrupt turn to the north, to the mouth of the Tred Avon River there extends a long shore line rugged with jutting headlands and their corresponding indentations.

In the days before white men settled in Talbot County this peninsula was the site of an Indian village and the happy hunting grounds of the tribe that lived there from time immemorial. The ground in places is scattered with their flint arrow heads and other relics. The Indians named the river Choptank, and they named many other rivers of the Eastern Shore. A few years after the coming of the white settlers, these Indians gave up their claims to their lands in Talbot and went to live on a reservation on the south side of the Choptank near the village of Secretary, in Dorchester County. In later years all of the Indians on the Eastern Shore went to other parts of the United States, where they mingled with other tribes of their race and in the Far West their freedom was for years uninterrupted by the march of civilization.

OTWELL

Surveyed 1659

TWENTY-ONE years after the landing of the Maryland Pilgrims at St. Mary's one William Taylor came up the Tred Avon Creek and on the south side of what was then called Parrott Branch had surveyed for him, on August 15, 1659, 500 acres of forest-covered land and named that tract "Otwell." This was about three years before Talbot was made a county. In this same year "Hîr Dîr Lloyd" was granted to Edward Lloyd; "Grafton Manor," 1,000 acres, to John Harris; "Canterbury Manor," 1,000 acres, to Richard Tilghman; "Tilghman's Fortune," 1,000 acres, to Samuel Tilghman; "Chancellor's Point," 1,000 acres, to Philip Calvert.

These were the earliest grants in Talbot of 1,000 acres or over, and it can be truthfully said of "Otwell" that it was among the pioneer grants of the Eastern Shore, though of less than 1,000 acres, and like all the other grants mentioned has been subdivided from time to time until it is now very much smaller than the original.

Writing of this estate some years ago, the late Dr. Edmund M. Goldsborough states that the loss of original acres detracts not from

the charm of the colonial house; no unsympathetic hand has intervened to despoil the atmosphere of a fragrant past. The house of "Otwell" stands today an exemplification of the tastes and characteristics which prevailed among the gentlemen who lived in later colonial times. The substantial lines of the English farmhouse are discernible in the architecture of this early home of the Goldsboroughs, into whose family "Otwell" came many years ago.

Otwell still remains in the family, it being owned by Matthew Goldsborough.

WYE HEIGHTS

This estate of about 1,100 acres is beautifully situated on the Wye River and was a part of the landed estate of Governor Edward Lloyd of "Wye House." The mansion house, situated on a bluff, overlooks the river and Wye Island on the opposite side. "Wye Heights" is now owned by James Fletcher, who takes pride in keeping the estate, as well as the house and surroundings, in the highest state of improvement.

RATCLIFFE MANOR

Surveyed 1659

THIS old manor became the home of Henry Hollyday about 1749, and here he brought his bride, Anna Maria Robins, that year. It is said that he built the present manor house at that time. The first Henry Hollyday died in 1789, and the estate passed to his son, Henry Hollyday; he died in 1850. Richard C. Hollyday, one of his sons, long lived at "Ratcliffe," and was Secretary of State of Maryland under several governors. His widow married the late United States Senator Charles Hopper Gibson.

"Ratcliffe Manor House" is more distinguished in appearance than the majority of homes built at the same period. The rooms are capacious, the ceilings high, and the quaintly carved woodwork delights the connoisseur of the colonial. The harmony of the interior is equaled by the effect of the dark-red brick structure, now almost covered by rich green English ivy. Many plants in the formal garden were brought to "Ratcliffe" in the early days of the Hollydays, and new varieties of ornamental shrubbery have been added by the present owner, A. A. Hathaway, formerly of Wisconsin.

HAMPDEN

Built 1663

"HAMPDEN," the ancestral home of the Martins of Talbot County, was built, it is said, in 1663 by Thomas Martin, the emigrant. The house stands on a branch of Dividing Creek amid a grove of giant trees and, while it is unpretentious, it embodies the substantial lines of the English farmhouse of that day. It is claimed that "Hampden" was the first brick house in Talbot.

Thomas Martin was born in Dorsetshire, England, in 1629, and arrived in the Province of Maryland in 1663. He acquired 200 acres from Edward Lloyd, part of the "Hîr Dîr Lloyd" grant, and on it built this house which he named "Hampden," in honor of his friend, John Hampden, of England. In addition to this place Thomas Martin owned several large tracts of land in Talbot County. In 1692 when the parishes were laid out he was selected by the freeholders living in St. Peter's Parish as one of the vestrymen and to the credit of his descendants it is said one or more of them have been members of the vestry for over 200 years of Old Whitemarsh Church, now in crumbling ruins.

In Island Neck Creek many homes were built in the early days of the county and on Dividing Creek nearly opposite to "Hampden" is the ancestral home of the Stevens family, "Compton." From the porch of this old mansion down over the well-kept lawns a fine view meets the eye. The quiet waters of Dividing Creek, the swift-flowing current of the Choptank River and the blue-gray shore line of Dorchester present a beautiful picture. Like "Hampden," this home was built of brick.

John Stevens built "Compton" in 1770, and here entertained his friends in lavish style. In 1788 he was a member of the Maryland Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States of America, his colleagues from Talbot in this convention being Robert Goldsborough, Jr., Edward Lloyd and Jeremiah Banning. In 1794 John Stevens died at "Compton," leaving an only son, Samuel Stevens.

Samuel Stevens became Governor of the State of Maryland in 1822. Like his father, he was a very popular man and his home was the rendezvous of local as well as State celebrities. In 1824 Gov. Samuel Stevens extended an invitation to General Lafayette to again visit Annapolis. The distinguished Frenchman accepted the invitation and a public reception and ball was held at the State House in his honor. During General Lafayette's stay at Annapolis, Governor Stevens sent a message to the State Assembly, which was in session at that time, asking that General Lafayette and his male heirs forever be made citizens of the State of Maryland. This was done by unanimous action on the part of both branches of the Assembly. Governor Stevens remained in office by two re-elections until 1826 and then returned to "Compton," where he spent a long and active life, dying there in 1860. At his death the property passed out of the Stevens family and is now owned by Charles B. Lloyd.

SOMERSET

1666

IT is an interesting fact that this old county was that part of the Province of Maryland officially known at St. Mary's City from 1661 to 1666 as "The Eastern Shore," while the section north of the Choptank River was known as the "Isle of Kent." Under date of February 4, 1662, John Elzey, Randall Revell and Stephen Horsey were made Commissioners for the territory south of the Choptank River. They held their offices until February 20, 1663, when Elzey and Horsey were reappointed by the Governor and Council, and Randall was succeeded by William Thorne. On the 15th of August, 1663, Elzey, Horsey, Thorne and Capt. John Odber were made "Commissioners for that part of the Province newly seated called the Eastern Shore," and on the 26th of May, 1664, Governor Charles Calvert "nominated, constituted and empowered Stephen Horsey, Capt. William Thorne and Mr. William Bozeman, gentleman, or any two of them being within this Province to grant warrants for land during the term of six months ensuing to date hereof upon the Eastern Shore of this Province in any part between the Choptank River and a line drawn east into the Maine Ocean from Watkins Point." A commission was issued August 28, 1665, to Horsey and Thorne "to continue Justices of the Peace on the Eastern Shore," and George Johnson, William Stevens, John White, John Winder, James Jones and Henry Boston were joined with them. These same men were appointed February 23, 1666, Commissioners for the Eastern Shore for one year; and just six months later, August 22, 1666, the county was created, and a new commission of the peace issued to them.

The boundaries of the new county were set out in the Proprietary's proclamation with all the exactness of the geographical knowledge of the day: "Bounded on the south with a line drawn from Wattkins' Point to the Ocean on the East, Nanticoke River on the north and the

sound of Chesipiake Bay on the West," and it was given the name of "Sommersett County in honor to our Deare Sister, the Lady Mary Somersett." Somerset, Worcester and Wicomico Counties, as at present constituted, were within this area.

Many attractions were presented by this territory to the immigrant. The climate was mild, tempered by ocean and bay, the soil, fertile and kind, responded generously to even the shallowest cultivation. The Nanticoke, Wicomico, Manokin, Great Annamessex, Little Annamessex, Pocomoke, and other streams traversed or indented the county. On the east the Chincoteague Bay made a break between the mainland and the long seashore of sand which stretches from Ocean City to the State line. These waters not only furnished abundant and delicious food, but they were the principal thoroughfares for travel from place to place in this new country where the land, except that adjacent to the navigable waters, was but little more than a pathless wilderness. Along the banks of these water courses the first settlements were made and the first places of worship were near to the rivers. It was a familiar sight to the early colonists to see the rivers dotted with sail boats going to and from the Sunday services held in the primitive churches of the early days of the Province.

Many of the early settlers in Somerset, as in the other counties of the Province, had fled from religious persecution in the Old World. They sought and found in the New World an asylum in Maryland where each one was permitted to worship God as his conscience dictated. Here indeed was a new country, rich in opportunities and made famous as the first to offer absolutely free religious worship. Such was the land of which Somerset County was a part. With its natural advantages, its forests abounding with game both large and small, its rivers yielding bountifully of fish, oysters and crabs, it is not surprising that Somerset soon became a very important part of Cecilius Calvert's Colony.

Into this part of the Province of Maryland as early as 1661 came John Elzey, Randall Revell, Edmund Howard, Stephen Horsey, William Thorne, Capt. John Odber, George Johnson, William Stevens, John White, Matthew Scarborough, John Winder, William Bozeman, James Jones and Henry Boston, men whose descendants have dwelt

here in this delightful land for the 250 years that have intervened since those pioneer settlers drove their axes into the trees and made clearings on which to grow grain and tobacco. Some of the early grants in Somerset were: "Bridges' Lot," 1,100 acres, 1663, to Joseph Bridges; "Darby," 3,000 acres, 1663, to Henry Sewall; "Jordan's Point," 1,000 acres, 1662, to Thomas Jordan; "More & Case It," 1,200 acres, 1662, to William Bozeman; "Revell's Grove," 1,500 acres, 1665, to Randall Revell; "Rice's Land," 1,000 acres, 1663, to Nicholas Rice; "Stanley," 1,350 acres, 1663, to Hugh Stanley; "The Strand," 1,000 acres, 1663, to Daniel Jenifer; "Wicomico," 1,000 acres, 1663, to Henry Sewall; "Rehoboth," 1,000 acres, 1665, to Col. William Stevens.

When, in 1742, the Assembly created a new county on the "seaboard side of Somerset"—Worcester—Somerset lost much of its original territory and about half of its inhabitants. In the erection of Wicomico County in 1867 Somerset again contributed area and population. She is the "mother" county south of the Choptank, as Kent is north of the river. Edmund Beauchamp was the first "Clerk and Keeper of the Records" of Somerset, and Stephen Horsey became the first Sheriff. In January, 1666, the Somerset County Court met at the house of Thomas Pool in Revell's Neck. A lot for the public buildings on the Manokin River was deeded the Proprietary in 1668 by Randall Revell, where a town was to be laid out for the county-seat, to be called "Sommerton." Soon afterward, however, the court ceased meeting on Revell's place, the town never became an actuality, and the county business was transacted on Dividing Creek. At the March term of the court, 1694, it was ordered that a tract of land not exceeding 200 acres be purchased near Dividing Creek on which a court house was to be built. The order called for a building fifty feet long by twenty feet wide with gable ends of brick. Nothing remains of that court house although its approximate site is still known as "Court House Hill." In 1732 the Assembly authorized the purchase of twenty-five acres, part of the original grant known as "Beckford," the land to be laid out into lots and a town built to be called Princess Anne. Here the court house was built and this old town, laid out in 1733, has been the county-seat ever since.

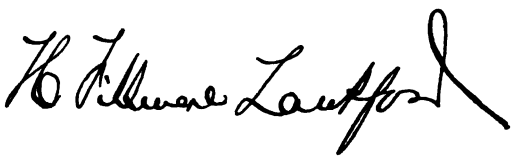
Princess Anne is on the south side of the Manokin River near its

headwaters. Its most striking feature is its wide and beautifully shaded streets. At Princess Anne is St. Andrews, the parish church of Somerset Parish, (1692). At Rehoboth, a small hamlet near the Pocomoke River, stands the ruins of one of the first churches built in the Province, the parish church of Coventry Parish. When the four parishes of Coventry, Snow Hill, Somerset and Stepney were laid out in Somerset County the following appeared as vestrymen: John Huett, Richard Chambers, John Painter, Nathaniel Horsey, Miles Grey, Peter Elzey, Francis Jenckins, George Layfield, Thomas Nuball, William Planer, Thomas Dixon, William Coleburn, James Weatherly, John Bounds, Philip Carter, Robert Collier, Thomas Holebrooke, Philip Askue, Matthew Scarborough, William Round, John Francklin, Thomas Pointer, Thomas Selby and Edward Hammond.

A chain of low-lying islands trending north and south divide the Chesapeake Bay from Tangier Sound, in the Somerset area, a beautiful salt water sheet that abounds in delicious oysters. Here, too, is to be found the greatest quantities of crabs. The catching of crabs gives occupation to a great many men living at or near Crisfield, a large and thriving town in the southwestern part of the county. From Crisfield soft crabs are shipped to all parts of the United States.

During the session of the Convention of Maryland which lasted from July 26 to August 14, 1775, the names of Somerset patriots were affixed to the Association of Freemen of Maryland, an agreement made with the other American colonies to stand by them in resisting the policy of "taxation without representation" which England had forced upon them. It was at this session also that the resolution was passed that there be forty companies of minute men enrolled in the Province, as soon as may be, each company to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, one fifer, and sixty-eight privates. Somerset enrolled one of these forty companies from the men who had previously signed the muster rolls. Prior to this time, the muster rolls show two battalions had been organized in the county. The First Battalion, commanded by Col. George Dashiell, and the Seventeenth Battalion, by Col. Thomas Hayward, were two of the thirty-eight battalions of volunteers enrolled in Maryland in 1775.

It is not out of place to mention here the important part Watkins' Point, the southernmost point of land in Somerset, played in the adjustment of the boundary between the Virginia Colony and the Province of Maryland. In the charter which gave the Province of Maryland to Cecilius Calvert this Watkins' Point was the beginning place in the description of the bounds of the Province. The following extract from the description includes reference to the line from Cinquack to Watkins' Point: "to the First Fountain of the River of Potowmack, thence verging towards the South into the further bank of the said River and following the same on the West and South unto a place called Cinquack situated near the mouth of the said River where it disembogues into the aforesaid Bay of Chesapeake and thence by the shortest line unto the aforesaid Promontory or Place called Watkins' Point." The King, Charles I, had before him when framing the charter a map which Capt. John Smith had made in 1608. On that map Captain Smith had indicated an Indian village lying close to the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay and about six or seven miles south of the mouth of the Potomac River; this was the Indian village called "Cinquack." Several times since the landing of Leonard Calvert with the colonists on March 25, 1634, this line has been the subject of dispute between Maryland and Virginia. Its final adjustment in 1877 terminated the dispute, but not until 1916 was the line between the two States marked by permanent buoys. This latter work was authorized in 1916 by the Maryland Assembly.



WORKINGTON

Built in 1793

"WORKINGTON" manor house is of pure Georgian architecture and stands on the grassy banks of picturesque Back Creek, not far from its junction with the Manokin River. This estate adjoins two others of prominence—"Arlington" and "Westover"; the former is built of glazed bricks and stands today as originally constructed, the latter has been rebuilt by the owner, Western Starr.

Henry Jackson emigrated to Maryland from Workington, England, and obtained a grant for the land on which he built, in 1793, this home. Fortified by the courage and spirit that typified the founders of this great Nation. Henry Jackson built the magnificent home in what was then the primeval forest of the Eastern Shore. The house is substantially built of brick and the woodwork is of the heart pine of this section of Somerset. From these forests he selected the most perfect material, that has lasted and will yet last for years to come.

One wonders at the patience exhibited by the workmen in carrying out the various details in hand carvings seen in the finishing of the cornices and paneling throughout the house. This adherence to

detail is in evidence in the doors, moldings and mantels, too. No expense was spared in making the house complete, according to the architecture of that period.

Luckily, "Workington" remained for several generations in the hands of those who made no alterations to mar its beauty, and fortune still followed this old homestead when the present owner, Ralph P. Thompson, came to Somerset and found and purchased this estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson saw this gem of colonial architecture buried in the dust and neglect of time. To their refined tastes, time and labor must be given the credit for the restoration of "Workington" to the home it was at the close of the eighteenth century, when this house was the pride of the builder, Henry Jackson.

REHOBOTH CHURCH

BUILT 1706

FRANCIS MAKEMIE, a pioneer Presbyterian minister, came to Maryland in 1683 in response to a request sent to England in 1681 by Col. William Stevens, and built in 1706 upon land which he acquired the present Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, familiarly called "Makemie's Church." A man of wonderful talents, he aroused the latent religious energy of the settlers of lower Somerset and upper Accomac County, Virginia, and to him more than anyone else is due the credit for establishing the Presbyterian Church in America. The same year he built Rehoboth Church he organized at Philadelphia the first General Presbytery of America and was chosen the first moderator. He retired in 1707 to his home at Holden's Creek, Va., where he died in July, 1708.

Col. William Stevens, a native of Buckinghamshire, England, was one of the earliest settlers in this part of Somerset County and obtained a grant of 1,000 acres which he named "Rehoboth," taking the name from a verse found in the Old Testament—Genesis, 26th chapter, 22nd verse:

> And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.

A man of wealth and great prominence, Col. William Stevens was made a commissioner of the county, which place, it is said, he retained until his death in 1687. Upon his tombstone the following inscription appears: "He was twenty-two years judge of this county court, one of His Lordship's Council and one of the deputy lieutenants of this Province of Maryland." Writing of this one of Maryland's earliest settlers, Rev. John D. Howk, in his "Rehoboth by the River," from which these notes are taken, says: "It seems only proper that the Presbyterian Church, the County of Somerset and the State of Maryland should take some step, in recognition of his prominence and long and faithful services, to guard this historic relic, [Col. Stevens' tomb], from oblivion." As early as 1670, as the Scotch, Scotch-Irish, French and Quakers continued to seek these friendly shores a small hamlet was growing up at the great bend of the Pocomoke River, first known as "Pocomoke Town," but later taking the name of Colonel Stevens plantation, "Rehoboth." The prominence of Colonel Stevens, who was the owner of over 20,000 acres of land in the colony, made it a place of importance far beyond its size.

Upon the death of the Rev. Francis Makemie in 1708 the Rev. John Henry took up the work of Rehoboth and married the widow of Col. Francis Jenkins, one of the Justices for Somerset, and a member of His Lordship's Council. She was the Lady Mary, daughter of Sir Robert King. Rev. and Mrs. Henry had two sons, Robert Jenkins and John, both of whom became prominent in the Province. The Rev. John Henry died in 1717 and he was succeeded by the Rev. John Hampton, then in charge at Snow Hill. He married the beautiful widow of the Rev. John Henry, who survived her last husband, she dying in 1744. Her grave is still to be seen near the old town of Rehoboth.

MAKEPEACE — OLD LANKFORD HOME

SURVEYED 1663 — BUILT ABOUT 1750

SHORTLY after King Charles I granted to Cecilius Calvert, Baron of Baltimore, on June 20, 1632, the charter for the Province of Maryland, there arose a contention as to the southerly boundary. The boundaries of Maryland are described in the charter as beginning at Watkins' Point and running east to the ocean. This point, which caused early contention, is located in Cedar Straits, which connect the waters of Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds, and is five miles from the thriving town of Crisfield.

Almost within sight of Watkins' Point and just beyond the town limits of Crisfield are standing two very old houses, "Makepeace," and the "Old Lankford Home," the birthplace of Benjamin Lankford in 1797. John Roach probably built "Makepeace" shortly after the survey for him of the tract, February 9, 1663, which contained 150 acres. The bricks used in building the house are glazed. The first owner of "Makepeace" died in 1717, leaving the estate to his son, John, who devised it to his son, Charles. The estate remained in the Roach family until 1826, when William Roach sold it to Robert Moore.

The following year Jacob James Cullen purchased "Makepeace," he having a short time before emigrated from Ireland and settled in Annamessex Hundred, on Johnson Creek. The place remained in the Cullen family for many years, it being owned, in turn, by Trevis and John Cullen. The latter sold "Makepeace" to Capt. Elijah Sterling, whose son, Luther, inherited it and in the ownership of whose widow, the present Mrs. Mary Chelton, it now rests. The families who have been connected with "Makepeace"—the Roaches, Gunbys, Atkinsons, Sterlings, Cullens and Cheltons—are all prominent ones of Somerset.

The "Old Lankford Home," located in Lawson's District, is very odd in design and construction. But few houses now exist on this Peninsula having brick ends with the sides built of logs. The writer has observed the ruins of houses of similar construction at Port Tobacco, once the county-seat of Charles County, today a "deserted village."

Benjamin Lankford, the son of Benjamin Lankford, born 1797, was elected Commissioner of Public Works of Maryland under the Constitution of 1851 and was also elected from Somerset to fourteen sessions of the House of Delegates and two sessions of the Senate. The last of the name to own the property was James F. Lankford, who died in 1897, when the property passed out of the family and was purchased by John Betts.

KINGSTON HALL

Built 1683

ABOUT ten miles from Princess Anne, at the head of King's Creek, is situated one of the notable places of the lower Eastern Shore—"Kingston Hall," known in the earliest records as "Kingland," the successive owners of which, almost to the present day, have been prominently identified with the social, professional and political life of the county and State. It is the ancestral home of the King-Carroll family, and contained, it is said, 6,000 acres in the original grant to Robert King. On one of the divisions, formerly a corner of the estate, the little village of Kingston sprang up, and near this is the railroad station of Kingston.

Built in 1683 by Major Robert King, a member of an ancient and honorable family in Ireland, who came to this country a short while before, "Kingston Hall" was the home of his descendants for more than a century and a half. Major King, who had been a member in the House of Burgesses and Justice of the Provincial Court of Maryland, was for years prior to his death Naval Officer of the Pocomoke District. Upon the death of Major King the estate of "Kingland"

passed to his son, Col. Robert King, and at his death, to the son of Robert King III. This son, Thomas King, married Miss Reid, of Virginia, and had but one child, Elizabeth Barnes King, who inherited the estate, upon which she continued to live after her marriage to Col. Henry James Carroll of Susquehanna, St. Mary's County. It became the property of the elder of her two sons, Thomas King and Charles Cecilius Carroll. Thomas King Carroll, a man of rare intellectual gifts and elegant culture, married Miss Stevenson, daughter of Dr. Henry Stevenson, of Baltimore. He was elected a member of the Legislature and later Governor of Maryland. At the expiration of his term as governor he returned to "Kingston Hall," where he continued to live until he removed to Dorchester County in 1840. The estate was purchased at this time by a member of the distinguished Dennis family of Somerset, a friend and neighbor of Governor Carroll, remaining in the possession of his descendants for a great many years. In later years it has been divided into several farms and sold to various owners, being now the home of Mr. Hallberg, formerly of Alabama.

During the life of Col. Henry James Carroll there were 150 slaves occupying quarters on the estate. Everything needed for them was produced on the place. A coach and four, with liveried outriders, was the style in which Colonel Carroll and his wife traveled yearly to the White Sulphur Springs. The stately old manor house remains practically unchanged to the present day. The main building is of brick, three stories high, and had extensive frame additions at either end. One of these wings has been removed, but the house now contains twenty-two rooms. Surmounting the main building is a tower room commanding a view of the surrounding country for miles. Many of the rooms at the Hall retain their colonial features, while quaint cupboards and "secret" panels enhance the charm of the house. In former years a long avenue of Lombardy poplars and cedars formed the approach to the mansion, and magnificent trees, terraced gardens, box-bordered walks, magnolia and native tulip trees, hedges of roses, lilacs, mock-orange, hollyhocks, and sweet-scented shrub bushes made a setting of indescribable beauty, much of which time has failed to destroy.

WASHINGTON HOTEL

Built by John Done

WHEN Princess Anne was laid out in lots way back before the Revolutionary War, one of them, No. 15, was bought by John Done. Here he built a home and it is generally supposed this home embodied the nature of a tavern, for it is known that Zadok Long bought the place from Done on the 17th of June, 1797, and that Long had rented the property prior to buying it and had conducted it as a tavern.

Here in the "land of the cedar and vine, where the flowers ever blossom, the beams ever shine," this old Washington Hotel has been the stopping place for travelers from all walks of life. Here they have dined upon the tempting viands prepared by good old cooks of long ago, here they have slept, laughed and sighed. The long list of those who found welcome and partook of its hospitality include the famous barrister, Luther Martin, the first Attorney-General of the State of Maryland. Luther Martin was of counsel for Aaron Burr in his trial for treason at Richmond. Judge Samuel Chase, one of the Signers

of the Declaration of Independence, a native of Somerset, was a frequent visitor, as was also his distinguished father, who was rector of Somerset Parish at one time. During the life of Governor Thomas King Carroll, he made this old Washington Hotel his headquarters. Here, too, Governor Levin Winder shook hands with his host of friends and felt the warmth of the support of his fellow Eastern Shoremen.

Writing entertainingly of this old hostelry, one of the Eastern Shore's fair ladies says, "it has sheltered statesmen, State officials, members of the Army and Navy, politicians, historians, poets, ministers and novelists; all have found here a welcome and hospitality equalled by few, surpassed by no other hotel in America." Here over the poker table negro slaves have been wagered, lost and won by their masters. Gambling was entered into by the gentlemen of the good old days and poker was a favorite with them.

How surprised would those guests of the Revolutionary times be if they found their rooms lighted by electric lights instead of the old tallow "dip." The great open fireplaces are still in use, but those old-time guests would be surprised by the steam radiators in their rooms, and the telephones—but the story would be too long to tell of the progress made in the intervening years. Then no trains connected Princess Anne with the outside world nor were there the steamboats that ply between this old town and Baltimore, and which have supplanted travel by sailing vessels.

TEACKLE MANSION

Built about 1801

JUST west of the limits of Princess Anne stands the Teackle Mansion, built on the lines of an English castle by Littleton Dennis Teackle. The main or central part of the old house is quite large with the usual colonial trimmings on the windows and doors. The two wings of Teackle Mansion, while smaller, are also splendid examples of the colonial workmanship and architecture.

Littleton D. Teackle was a progressive man and entered into the financial and political life of Somerset County. He was the founder and first president of the first banking institution in the county—the Bank of Somerset. He was at one time a member of the Maryland Assembly and took an active part in the work of that body.

The old house stands on a part of the original grant "Beckford," and which part was bought in 1801 by Mr. Teackle from George Wilson Jackson. The property is now owned and occupied by three families. The main part is the home of E. Orrick Smith. Miss Euphemia A. Woolford owns the north wing and the south wing is the home of Francis H. Dashiell.

BEECHWOOD

PATENTED 1668

OF the nine county-seats of the Eastern Shore, Princess Anne seems to lead in the number of existing historical places. In fact, Somerset, which is the third oldest county of our peninsula, is rich in history. This may be attributed to its geographical location, being our southernmost county, into which many of the early settlers came from Virginia.

East of Princess Anne, and just outside of the corporate limits of this picturesque town, is "Beechwood," the home of the late Hon. Levin Lyttleton Waters.

After leaving Princess Anne on a north-bound train, a forest of stately oak and beech trees is passed, through which a winding road is seen, leading to the homestead of the Waters family, and which has been their ancestral home for over 200 years in Somerset County.

Under the name of "Manlove's Discovery," George Manlove patented "Beechwood" in 1668. Robert Elzey, the father of Anne Glasgow Elzey, and from whom she inherited the property, purchased the estate from George Manlove early in the eighteenth century, and it has been held in the Waters family by direct inheritance ever since.

"Beechwood" takes its name from the numerous beech trees surrounding the spacious lawn and mansion house. Under some of these trees in the old family burying ground lie the remains of some of its former owners, their last resting-place being marked by marble slabs, shown by the picture at the end of this sketch.

The Waters family is closely related to many of the former owners of other colonial estates in Somerset County. Levin Lyttleton Waters married Lucretia Jones, a daughter of Col. Arnold Elzey Jones, of "Elmwood," on the Manokin River, and a sister of Gen. Arnold Elzey of the Confederate Army. Mrs. Waters' mother was Anne Wilson Jackson, a daughter of Henry Jackson, who owned and built the colonial mansion on the "Workington" estate. Henry Jackson also owned and built the "Beckford" mansion. Mrs. Waters was related to the Wilsons and Elzeys, former owners of the "Westover" and "Almodington" estates. "Westover" adjoins "Workington," and is located on Back Creek, a tributary of the Manokin River, and is now owned by Western Starr. "Almodington" is situated on the Manokin River and adjoins "Elmwood." These homesteads face "Clifton," which is located on the opposite side of the river.

Two surviving brothers and two sisters inherited "Beechwood," Arnold Elzey Waters and Mrs. William C. Hart, of Baltimore City, and Miss Emily Rebecca Waters and Henry Jackson Waters, of Princess Anne.

BECKFORD

Surveyed 1679

THE records of the Land Office of Maryland, in Annapolis, show that the tract of land called "Beckford" was surveyed in November, 1679, in the name of Col. William Stevens, and that the certificate of survey was assigned by him to Edmund Howard, and that a patent was issued to Howard in November, 1681. In 1697, Edmund Howard conveyed the plantation to Peter Dent, who built a dwelling house upon it where he resided for some time. Peter Dent was a man of distinction in his time, and was Clerk of the Somerset County Court and also Attorney-General of the Province of Maryland. By his will, executed in 1710, he devised this property to his wife, Jeane Pitman Dent, and his daughter, Rebecca Dent. Rebecca Dent married an Anderson, and her son, John Anderson, inherited the property, and in 1771 conveyed it to Henry Jackson, a merchant and planter of large means, who built the brick mansion now standing in an excellent state of preservation. Under the will of Henry Jackson, who died in 1794, "Beckford" passed to his son, George Wilson Jackson, and he in 1803 conveyed it to his brother-in-law, John Dennis.

John Dennis was a Representative from the Eighth Maryland District in the House of Representatives in the Sixth Congress, 1801, during the contest for the Presidency of the United States between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. He served in five other Congresses and died in 1807, and under the terms of his will this property passed to his son, Robert Jackson Dennis, who sold it to his brother, John Dennis, in 1831. John Dennis, the second, was also a member of the House of Representatives, for four years, and died in 1859. His family continued to reside on the property until 1886, when it was sold under a decree of the Circuit Court for Somerset County.

That part of the farm upon which the dwelling and other buildings stand was purchased by H. Fillmore Lankford, who has since resided there. The house stands upon the crest of the slope rising from the eastern bank of the Manokin River and faces the town of Princess Anne. It is a two-story brick structure of colonial design and was erected in 1776. The spacious rooms of this mansion are well lighted by numerous large and deep-seated windows. The massive doors with their quaint locks and bars bespeak the customs and manners of an age long since passed. It is surrounded by a most beautiful lawn covering an area of five acres and is approached by a long, well-shaded lane which leads from Beckford Avenue to the river bank. An immense grove of shade and nut trees, some of which are more than a century old, covers the lawn. One of these trees, a pecan, shades the ground over an area of 120 feet.

To "Beckford" more than to any other place in this delightful Eastern Shore town belongs the honor of keeping alive colonial traditions and customs. Here have been entertained men of culture and distinction, men of political fame and men of letters. All have come and gone realizing the truly genuine welcome of the host and hostess.

CLIFTON

Built about 1700

COMING with Governor Leonard Calvert and his "Pilgrims" on their voyage across the Atlantic in the Ark and the Dove to establish the Province of Maryland was Randall Revell, it is said. He was called upon to testify at a court held in Accomac in Virginia in 1634, giving his age at that time as twenty-one years. In 1662 Randall Revell appears as one of the Commissioners for the "Eastern Shore" as the territory south of the Choptank and east of the Chesapeake was then called. His name does not appear again in the commissions, but it is said that he was a Burgess in 1666 when Somerset was created a county of the Province. In October, 1665, he was granted "Revell's Grove," a tract of 1,500 acres of land, and while he may have held land on the Virginia peninsula prior to this, it is the first record of his being granted land in Maryland.

On this tract of land it is said that he built his manor house, "Clifton," which stood on the site now occupied by the present house, which was built by his son, Randolph Revell, about 1700. The house overlooks the beautiful Manokin River, which leads to Princess

Anne, and is about half a mile from where the river branches. It is on one of the few hills in that section of Somerset County, which rises to about forty feet above high water. From this old house the lawn slopes gradually to the river, about one hundred yards distant. From the house a beautiful view of the Manokin River and the surrounding country is afforded. The house is built entirely of the type of English brick so common in colonial times and is a gem of colonial architecture embodying all the art known to the builders of the time.

In addition to this property Randolph Revell was the owner of "Arracoco," 2,800 acres, and "Double Purchase," 3,000 acres, which were surveyed for him on the 19th of November, 1679. With the exception of Col. William Stevens, to whom was granted over 20,000 acres, Randolph Revell was the largest landowner at that time in Somerset County. He owned in 1679 over 7,000 acres.

"It would appear," writes one familiar with this family, "that after a time the Revells played in hard luck and were forced to sell their property and take property of less value in Somerset. However, until very recent years the Revells have been large landholders in the county and have always taken a prominent part in public affairs. Some of the descendants still own land here. "Clifton" is now the property of W. F. Pendleton, who makes his home there."

Not far from "Clifton" once stood a court house that was the seat of justice for Somerset. The foundation of the old building is, due to the subsidence of the land, now entirely under water except at very low tide.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

1669

AS historically appears to have been the custom in the earliest days of England, when knights of the shire were by royal writ first summoned to Parliament and the various counties and shires were subsequently laid out and defined by exact boundaries, so the County of Dorchester and most of the earlier-formed counties of the Province of Maryland seem to have been called into existence by writ issued by the Governor and his Council, then sitting at old St. Mary's in Southern Maryland, directing the Sheriff named in the writ to hold an election for the election of Delegates to the General Assembly, in the county named in the writ, without any previous precise territorial definition of the county thus designated.

Thus Dorchester County appears to have been summoned into being by a writ issued by Governor Charles Calvert and his Council on February 4, 1669, directing the Sheriff of the county to hold an election for delegates from that county to attend the General Assembly of the Province on the following 13th day of April, at the then capital of Maryland, St. Mary's, in St. Mary's County. There would seem to have been some kind of government already established in the locality, as the writ was addressed to "Raymond Staplefort, Sheriff of Dorchester County," but no record of the same appears. At the session of the General Assembly thus called, on May 6, 1669, eight commissioners were appointed to govern the county in all matters administrative, civil and criminal, subject only to the Governor and Council for the Province. Specifically were they authorized and enjoined to inquire into "all manner of felonies, witchcraft, enchantments, sorceries, magic arts," etc., in the county; arrest the guilty and send them to St. Mary's for trial, the commissioners not being given powers of life and death.

Dorchester was named after Sir Edward Sackville, fourth Earl of

Dorset, a distinguished nobleman and statesman in the reigns of James I and Charles I, Kings of England. He was a favorite of the latter king, as well as of his consort, Henrietta Maria, after whom Maryland was named, and served as Lord Chamberlain to the queen. It is not a rash conjecture that one of the largest counties of Maryland may have been so named for him because of this close friendship with the queen. The Earl of Dorset was not only an influential statesman and counselor to the king, but he is described by Clarendon as "beautiful, graceful and vigorous; his wit, pleasant, sparkling and sublime. The vices he had were of the age, which he was not stubborn enough to condemn or resist." Another writer says of him: "He was an able speaker and on the whole a moderate politician, combining a strong respect for the royal prerogative with an attachment to the Protestant cause and the liberties of Parliament."

Prior to this time Dorchester formed part of Somerset County, being the first child of that county, as was Talbot of Kent County; Kent and Somerset, divided by the Great Choptank River, constituting the original Eastern Shore of Maryland, and extending from the fortieth degree of north latitude to the Virginia line and from the Chesapeake Bay to Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. After much dispute, what is now known as the State of Delaware was removed from under Maryland jurisdiction, and after being separated from Somerset, Dorchester County was bounded by the Great Choptank River on the north and northeast, by the Delaware line on the east, by Nanticoke River on the south, and the Chesapeake Bay on the west and northwest. It embraced the larger part of what is now known as Caroline County until in 1773 that county was created out of parts of Dorchester and Queen Anne's Counties. Since this separation Dorchester has contained 618 square miles, being the largest county on the Eastern Shore in area, and the fourth largest in the State. Colonists from the western side of the Chesapeake were attracted by the low-lying shores on the Choptank River and in the lower section of Dorchester County, and quite a large area of land had been surveyed and taken up in these localities as early as 1659. More than a hundred settlers are shown from the rent rolls of that period to have taken up their residence in the territory which in 1669 became Dorchester County, and it is estimated that the population

numbered at least 500 inhabitants. By the last census, (1910), the population was given as 28,669, thus making Dorchester ninth in numbers in the State, though still the first on the eastern side of the bay.

On its western side the county was and is guarded against the turbulent waters of the Chesapeake Bay by a string of beautiful and most fertile islands; cotton, tobacco, figs, pecans, etc., denizens of a more southern clime, flourishing luxuriantly in early days side by side with the cereal crops—such is the tempered and salubrious climate—but these islands have in larger part been washed away by storms and the tides of the bay, and they seem destined to final extinction as the submergence still progresses and at an even accelerated rate within the last fifty years. By the operation of seismic forces the mainland within this fringe of islands, like the islands themselves, appears upon all its bay frontage to be gradually but steadily subsiding, extensive areas of marsh land, inhabited by fur-bearing animals alone, now appearing where prosperous corn and tobacco fields were cultivated by the early colonists. This is not only known by tradition and the experience of the last fifty or sixty years, but is demonstrated by the existence of immense stumps of oak and poplar trees, from three to five feet in diameter, found in these marshes several feet below the tides, high or low, and which indicate a subsidence of at least three or four feet within the last 200 years.

In 1684 an Act of the General Assembly was passed to locate a town, to be called Cambridge, on the south side of the Great Choptank River, and in 1686 an act was passed providing for the erection of a court house and jail in the new town, which from that time became the county-seat, the same having been until then migratory, but it was not until 1745 that the village was incorporated. "Village," yes, but at that time it had a slightly larger population than "Baltimore Town," as indicated by the number of dwellings appearing in the old-time sketches of the two towns. The major part of the ancient records of the county were consumed when the colonial court house was destroyed by fire in 1851, not a vestige of the record of proceedings of the original commissioner government and of the "county court" government, which followed it after the Revolution, having

been saved. In 1692 the vestry of Great Choptank Parish was authorized to use this court house as a place of worship until a church should be built.

Having religious toleration as one of the fundamental principles in its charter, it is not surprising that Maryland almost from the very beginning was a religious center where people of any religious faith, or of no religious faith, could meet on common ground upon terms of equality. As early as 1629 we are informed that regular services were held on Kent Island, and religious worship seems to have spread gradually, but steadily, to other parts of the Eastern Shore, this gradual extension undoubtedly being caused by the sparsity of the population and the inconvenient methods of travel and intercourse. While information as to religious activities of the ante-Revolutionary period seems to be lacking, yet we know that during and after the Revolution Dorchester County became a center for religious discussion. During and at the close of the Revolutionary War, Francis Asbury, Freeborn Garrettson and other famous missionaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Church repeatedly visited Dorchester, and a great religious wave swept over the county. A large proportion of the inhabitants attached themselves to that organization, and the followers of Methodism largely predominate in Dorchester County today. Mr. Garrettson was on one occasion, in 1780, confined in the old jail in Locust Street, in Cambridge, (which, as a stable, stood until pulled down a few years ago), but, tradition to the contrary notwithstanding, his arrest seems to have been more attributable to his Toryism than to religious persecution. In 1777 we are told that he refused to take the oath of allegiance on conscientious grounds, and was told peremptorily that he must take such oath, leave the State or go to jail. In spite of these admonitions he continued to preach, though frequently subjected to harsh treatment, and was the object of suspicion which finally led to his arrest and imprisonment under circumstances exciting in their details. George Fox, the celebrated Quaker preacher, also appeared, the Cliffs of Calvert and the banks of the Choptank being rallying points where with rude but powerful eloquence he preached the Gospel to his audience of aborigines and white settlers, the heir to the Province on one of these occasions being present as a member of the congregation.

In 1642 it is said that there was not one Protestant clergyman in Maryland, but fifty years later, in 1692, the Church of England became by law the established church of the Province. Dorchester County was divided into two parishes, Great Choptank Parish and Dorchester Parish, a division which remains until the present day. So far as can be ascertained, four small churches were established by the Church of England in the territory of the county, and one chapel of the Church of Rome in the years prior to and shortly following the Revolution. One of these Protestant Episcopal churches, (as they have been styled since the separation of the colonies from Great Britain), built during the reign of William and Mary, and located at Church Creek, seven miles from Cambridge, stands intact to the present day, and is one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of the original church edifices of Maryland in existence.

Dorchester County was intensely and enthusiastically devoted to the Revolutionary cause and sent her quota of troops to the "Maryland Line" which played so heroic a part in the great War of Independence. To speak of the individuals who were conspicuous in these Revolutionary struggles would be beyond the scope of an article which is designed to be impersonal in its nature, but it is sufficient to say that at every call of the State for troops Dorchester promptly responded.

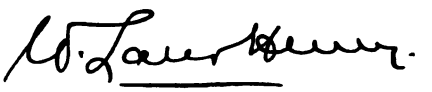
The development and growth of a people are affected in a great degree by the vocations they pursue, and these vocations are largely influenced by the physical characteristics of the territory in which they build their homes. The people of Dorchester appear from the earliest times to have very largely followed the water, lying as the county does between the Chesapeake Bay on one side and the Great Choptank River on the other; the river being over two miles wide, and until after it passes Dorchester toward its source in Delaware more properly an arm of the bay than a river. Besides this it is penetrated by a number of navigable rivers and creeks, and like most populations everywhere so situated, the inhabitants seem to have been from the beginning a sturdy, independent but peaceable people, living on excellent terms with the Indians in their midst as well as with themselves and neighbors. The life of the people was a country life and little has come down to us concerning their peaceful existence. If

the annals of a happy people are meager, then we may infer that the people of early Dorchester lived happy and contented, and we may surmise that their life was much of that character described by Johnson in his book on "Old Maryland Manors," where he says:

> The first generation of Maryland planters led that sort of hand-to-mouth, happy-go-lucky existence that marked the beginning of all the colonies. Until means became adapted to ends, but little comfort and still less culture were to be found. Many of the earliest settlers of high consideration made their cross-mark on titles, deeds and conveyances. Their ignorance, however, was the knowledge of the class from which the best born of them sprang—the English country gentry of the seventeenth century.

In those early days the growth of tobacco and corn was the principal occupation of the owners of the land. These were mostly farmers as distinguished from planters, most of the grants being of small acreage as compared with the grants in the sister Colony of Virginia, and of the few large grants most of them became largely subdivided long before the Revolution. From Cambridge to the bay shore the soil is a stiff, white clay, while above the town it is lighter until it becomes extremely sandy as it approaches the Delaware line. About three-fourths of the county is perfectly flat, without an elevation upon it, while the remainder is slightly undulating in character.

Dorchester County has sent seven of her sons to Annapolis as Governors of Maryland, besides a long array of distinguished men to the service of the government of the Union, but as these were all post-Revolutionary in their political and military careers, simply this reference is made to them, as the object of this work, as I understand it, is purely colonial in scope and limited to the early records of the several counties of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.



WARWICK FORT MANOR HOUSE

BUILT ABOUT 1740

THIS old home takes its name, presumably, from the famous Warwick Castle in England, and is situated at the picturesque junction of Secretary Creek with the Choptank River, about a mile from the quaint little village of Secretary in upper Dorchester. The history of "Warwick Manor" is almost as old as the history of Dorchester County itself, being one of the first manors granted in the county. This estate, the ancestral home of the Hooper family of Maryland, is particularly interesting, not only because of its antiquity but as having been the home of men whose valuable services to the State are a brilliant part of its history. At one time this land was the property of Henry Sewall, Secretary of the Province of Maryland.

Before the middle of the eighteenth century the estate was bought by Col. Henry Hooper, whose ancestors had come, in the last half of the preceding century, from Southern Maryland, renamed "Warwick Fort Manor," and built the present house. Colonel Hooper was one of the leading men in Maryland at that time. His son, also

named Henry Hooper, who inherited the property, became even more prominent in public affairs. He took an active part in the struggle for independence, was a member of the Association of Freemen, a delegate to the first Maryland Provincial Convention and a member of the Council of Safety. In 1776 he was made brigadier-general of militia of the lower half of the Eastern Shore.

Passing at the death of General Hooper, in 1790, into the hands of his son, Henry, the estate was divided by him and sold in different parcels. In the course of time it passed entirely out of the hands of the family, and has since had a number of owners, among whom was Richard Hughlett, of the well-known Hughlett family of Talbot County, and John Webster, the largest landowner and one of the wealthiest men of his day in Dorchester. He devised it to Mrs. Martina Hurst, of Baltimore. In the last few years it has met the fate of so many of these old places, coming to have only a commercial value.

At the time "Warwick Fort Manor House" was built the Choptank Indians were roaming the forests that surrounded it. Colonel Hooper evidently recognized the necessity for providing adequate defense against possible attacks of these hostile neighbors. The walls, built of English brick, are two feet in thickness; the massive doors, made of diagonal timber, have hinges four feet in length, and stout iron bars on the inside. No expense was spared in making the interior attractive. The rooms were finished in rosewood and mahogany, while the paneled walls, handsome mantels and deep window-seats are fine specimens of colonial architecture. The most striking feature of the house, however, is the hall with its beautiful winding stairway finished with mahogany rail and banisters. Although it has echoed to the tread of the belles and beaux of two centuries its beauty is unimpaired.

Like most of these old places "Warwick Fort Manor House" has a "haunted chamber" and traditions of buried treasure. Linked as it is with the names of men who have helped to make Maryland history, surrounded by the halo of romance of "ye olden time," its fate is now in the balance, dependent upon its future owners.

THE OLD DORCHESTER HOUSE

CAMBRIDGE

STANDING in what is now the center of the business section of Cambridge, the "Old Dorchester House" is of peculiar interest to the people of the county because of its connection with past historical events. Available sources of information indicate that it was erected about the middle of the eighteenth century, the name of its constructor being perpetuated by Muir Street. The interior evidences the cultivated taste of its builder. It is paneled throughout, ornamented with hand carving and colonial mantels, has deep window-seats and fireplaces in nearly every room.

This house was once the home of Thomas Nevitt, and later of Gustavus Scott, of the Continental Congress, and of Dr. Joseph Muse. Under Dr. Thomas White, it became a hotel, and on its spacious lawn old-time rallies of the Democrats were held. A week-long discussion with the Whigs on the work of the Constitutional Convention of 1850, in which noted local orators of both sides appeared, is a feature of the political history of the "Dorchester House." John Bradshaw also used it as a hotel, and then it was long occupied by David Straughn.

THE POINT

BUILT 1706–10

AT the intersection of the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek, taking its name because of this situation, stands the justly famous "The Point"—the oldest remaining dwelling of the original houses of Cambridge. Its claims to distinction are not entirely confined, however, to its antiquity, as it has been the home of men whose illustrious names appear with unusual prominence upon the annals of the county and State.

The larger part of the house was built between 1706 and 1710 by Col. John Kirk, then Lord Baltimore's agent for Dorchester County. Two additional rooms were built by Robert Goldsborough about 1770, and some years later—1796—when it became the property of James Steele, the handsome addition of two large and beautiful rooms and a large square hall was made by him. Almost a century later Dr. William R. Hayward further improved the house by the addition of a library, while modern conveniences have been supplied in recent years. All of these improvements were made, however, without departing from the architectural style of the oldest part of the dwell-

ing. This part, though a wooden structure, is built of such solid timber that it will probably last longer than many of the houses erected in the last quarter of a century.

The interior of this fine old home reflects the highly cultured taste of its respective owners. Most of the rooms are heavily paneled, with deep windows, brass-mounted doors, colonial mantels and quaint nooks and corners. A handsome mahogany stairway rises from the hall, and antique furniture makes "The Point" a veritable treasure house.

"The Point" was inherited from Col. John Kirk by his only daughter, who married the Rev. Thomas Howell, the first rector of the historic church at Church Creek and the first Episcopal church in Cambridge. He planted a double row of cedars around the two-acre grounds of "The Point" and a cross of cedars in the center. When these grew up, in the course of years, they formed a gigantic cross, the trees measuring three feet in diameter. Unfortunately, they have been the special mark of lightning, and only the stumps remain. Mr. and Mrs. Howell sold the property to Mr. Orrell, a merchant, from whose heirs it was purchased by Charles Goldsborough, Clerk of the Circuit Court, who, at his death, bequeathed it to one of his sons, the talented Robert Goldsborough, who married Sarah Yerbury, of England. Robert Goldsborough, a famous lawyer, was a member of the Continental Congress and of the Council of Safety; also a member of the Convention of the Province of Maryland, held in Annapolis in 1776, when he is said to have been largely instrumental in framing the first Maryland Constitution.

His son, William Goldsborough, became the next owner of "The Point," from whom it was purchased in 1796 by James Steele, the ancestor of the Steeles of Dorchester and Anne Arundel counties. One of his sons, Henry Maynadier Steele, married the daughter of Francis Scott Key, and to him his father bequeathed "The Point." Removing to Anne Arundel County, Mr. Steele in 1822 sold the place to William W. Eccleston, Register of Wills for Dorchester. It then passed to his widow, who left it to her daughter, Mrs. Eliza Hayward, wife of Dr. William R. Hayward, Commissioner of the Land Office from 1870 to 1884. It has since been owned by the descendants of Mrs. Hayward, being the residence at present of her daughter and son-in-law, Col. and Mrs. Clement Sulivane.

HAMBROOK

Built Prior to 1806

VISIBLE for miles to those who travel the waters of the Great Choptank River—the beauty of which river at this point has been compared to that of the Bay of Naples—the estate of "Hambrook," the ancestral home of one branch of the Henry family, has compelled the admiration of visitors to Cambridge and has been a source of pride to its residents. Most of them cherish memories and traditions of its wide lawns, its flower gardens and tree-bordered walks, its cultured and distinguished guests, and its open-hearted hospitality.

The original tract of "Hambrook," known in the earliest records as "Busby," included much of the surrounding territory, since divided into several places, and was leased about 1700 from William Dorrington by John Hambrook, from whom it takes its name. This lease was shortly afterward confirmed by deed. The destruction of old wills by the burning of the court house has hampered the work of tracing the history of "Hambrook," as it has those of most of the places in Dorchester. Therefore, the next owner of whom there is a record was Elizabeth Caile, who transferred it in 1796 to William Vans Murray.

Later it became the property of Isaac Steele and was inherited by his niece, Catherine Steele. In 1812, when Catherine Steele was a minor, the place was sold to John Campbell Henry, son of Governor John Henry, of "Weston." "Weston," on the Nanticoke, was burned by the British in 1780.

Soon after his marriage to Miss Mary Nevitt Steele, daughter of James Steele, of "The Point," in 1812, Mr. Henry took up his residence at "Hambrook," where he lived the life of a country gentleman, dying in 1857. A large and interesting family grew up at "Hambrook" during that time. The estate was left by Mr. Henry to his son, Daniel Maynadier Henry, who long devoted his talents to public affairs, serving in both branches of the State Legislature and for two terms—Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses—as a member of the House of Representatives.

Social life among the residents of the old estates of Dorchester and adjoining counties often resulted in closer union. Thus it was that Daniel M. Henry married Susan, only daughter of William Goldsborough, of "Myrtle Grove," Talbot County, they being the parents of Judge Winder Laird Henry, a Representative in the Fifty-third Congress, lately of the bench of the First Judicial Circuit and the Maryland Public Service Commission, and President of the Eastern Shore Society.

"Hambrook" was sold by the Henrys to Dr. Edward S. Waters, of Baltimore, who made it his home for a number of years. Since then it has passed through several hands, it being now owned and occupied by Commodore Slagle, of Baltimore. Tradition is responsible for the assertion that the tenant house on the place is part of the original house—a frame building of the old hip-roof style, built by John Hambrook.

The present dwelling was built by Isaac Steele. He died there in 1806. "Hambrook" was enlarged and improved by John Campbell Henry, and both the house and the place greatly beautified and adorned by Mrs. Frank M. Dick of New York, who owned the place for some years. The possibility of adding modern conveniences and at the same time preserving the colonial features of the building has been fully demonstrated. So well has this been done that, unlike so many of the old buildings which are but relics of their former glory, "Hambrook" today is a magnificent home of the colonial type.

CASTLE HAVEN

Built 1730

SHORTLY after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes Monsieur Anthony LeCompte, a French Huguenot refugee, fled to this country to escape the persecutions of the time. That he was a man of importance and large possessions was evident, as he brought with him so many retainers that it took several ships to carry them. Landing first in Calvert County he soon removed to Dorchester and was granted a patent for a large tract of land on the Choptank River, eight miles from Cambridge. The estate of "Castle Haven" was a part of this tract of land, but efforts to unearth something of its ancient history have been unavailing.

In the early part of the nineteenth century, however, "Castle Haven" was the residence of the Rev. James Kemp, one time rector of Great Choptank Parish, and afterward Bishop of Maryland. The records show that he lived there for some years prior to 1818, at which time he sold the place to Levin and Mary Jones. It passed through so many hands after this, that space will not permit the mention of all those who have owned it.

It was for some years the summer home of Governor Thomas King Carroll, a native of Somerset County, then living in Baltimore. Among those owning it in later years was Wilbur F. Jackson. At his death it became the property of his widow and daughter—the latter the wife of Mayor James H. Preston of Baltimore City. Oscar F. Turner, of Baltimore, was the next purchaser, and several years ago it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Harrison of New York, who now make it their home.

Although there is no definite proof, it is generally accepted that the house at "Castle Haven" was built about 1730. The main building is of brick, and has been left practically the same, though it was enlarged by Mr. Jackson. The rooms of the old house are large and very beautiful, having the characteristic colonial architectural features. The library is especially worthy of note and commands a splendid view of the river where, in the old days, the passing steamers put off visitors and household supplies at the place.

Yielding almost every crop, fruit and vegetable known on the Eastern Shore in profusion and of the finest quality—with an abundance of oysters, fish, and wild-fowl at the very doors, with huge old trees and shrubbery of all kinds beautifying the spacious lawns; nature has lavished her gifts on the spot, making it an ideal place for a home. Far from the noisy haunts of men, reposing under the bright sunshine or the softened radiance of the moonlight—fanned by health-giving breezes, and breathing the spirit of elegant leisure—it is indeed, as its name suggests, a veritable haven of refuge for those "hackney'd in business, wearied at the oar."

ELDON

Granted to Col. Thomas Ennalls

WASHED by the waters of the Choptank River, a few miles from Cambridge, and separated by its extensive acres from the State road leading to the upper section of Dorchester, lies "Eldon," one of the show-places of the county, and the home for generations of those who have been prominent in the social life of their times.

The original tract granted to Col. Thomas Ennalls, whose ancestors came in the early part of the seventeenth century to Dorchester from Virginia, embraced what is now "Shoal Creek" and other adjacent places, extending as far as Secretary. From the Ennalls are descended branches of the Goldsboroughs, Hoopers, Bayards, Steeles, Muses, and other influential families of the Eastern Shore, so that "Eldon" became associated in an unusual degree with the affairs of the county and State.

Its fame, however, was not confined to this locality, as it became in later years, through his marriage to Miss Ennalls, the property of one of the Bayards of Delaware whose distinguished relatives were frequent visitors there both during his proprietorship and after it

became the property of James Billings Steele. At that time 3,000 acres were attached to the place.

James Billings Steele won for his bride the daughter of Robert Goldsborough, of "Horn's Point," and granddaughter of Dr. William Smith, first president of Washington College and first provost of the College of Philadelphia, thus connecting two of the most notable estates in the county. When purchased by Dr. Francis P. Phelps in 1836 there were 800 acres surrounding the manor house. The reputation of their predecessors for unbounded hospitality was sustained by Dr. Phelps and his heirs. He was a noted physician, for several terms a member of the House of Delegates and twice State Senator.

The handsome old manor house was especially noted for the beautiful ball-room, where the beauty and chivalry of the county frequently gathered to "chase the glowing hours with flying feet." It was in this room that the attractive daughter of Dr. Phelps, Miss Annie Phelps, became the bride of James Wallace, a brilliant member of the Cambridge bar, who afterward became State Senator, and a colonel in the Civil War.

That house met the same fate as those at "Horn's Point" and "Weston," it having burned to the ground—St. Patrick's Day, 1846. Immediately thereafter Dr. Phelps erected upon the same site the commodious dwelling of the present day, its large parlors and spacious halls being admirably suited for upholding the traditions of the past. Surrounded on two sides by Hurst Creek, known in the earliest records as "Kitty Willis Creek," the lawn at "Eldon" is unsurpassed by that of any place in Dorchester.

Charles Goldsborough, of "Shoal Creek," (8 January–20 December, 1819), and John Henry, of "Weston," (28 November, 1797–14 November, 1798), were two of the seven Dorchester Governors. The others have been Thomas King Carroll, (15 January, 1830–13 January, 1831); Thomas Holliday Hicks, (13 January, 1858–8 January, 1862); Henry Lloyd, (27 March, 1885–11 January, 1888); Phillips Lee Goldsborough, (10 January, 1912–12 January, 1916); Emerson C. Harrington, from 12 January, 1916.

GLASGOW

Built about 1760

IN the latter part of the seventeenth century, or early in the eighteenth, William Murray, a cousin and ward of the then chief of the Clan Murray in Scotland, arrived in Maryland and became the owner of a large tract of land in Dorchester known as "Ayreshire," of which the estate of "Glasgow" is a part. William Murray was the grandfather of one of the most illustrious men Dorchester ever produced—William Vans Murray, Minister to Holland, (1797–1801), and one of the negotiators of the French Treaty of 1800. Born in Cambridge in 1762, he studied law at the Temple in London, began practice at Cambridge in 1785, served in the Second, Third, and Fourth Congresses as a Representative, and died at Cambridge in 1803, when only forty-one years of age.

"Ayreshire" was inherited by the sister of William Vans Murray, Henrietta Murray, who married Dr. Robertson, of Somerset County, but continued to live at "Ayreshire." One of the interesting features of the old house at "Glasgow" today is a window-pane upon which has been scratched, (evidently with a diamond ring), these lines:

"Henrietta R. Robertson—October 14th, 1827. The last winter Henry is to attend lectures in Baltimore." Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that this Henry was her son, who became a distinguished clergyman in the Protestant Episcopal Church, settled in Alabama, and founded a family which has since become large and influential.

In 1840 the estate of "Ayreshire" was purchased from Dr. Robertson by Dr. Robert F. Tubman, a prominent physician of the southern part of the county. Some years later, desiring to divide the property between two of his sons, Dr. Tubman, in order to distinguish the divisions, called one "Glasgow" and the other "Glenburn." "Glasgow" was the part of the estate upon which the house stood, and this became the property of Robert C. Tubman and "Glenburn" that of Benjamin Gaither Tubman. At the time of its purchase by Dr. Tubman, the whole place contained about 800 acres. At the present time there are 265 acres attached to "Glasgow." The growth of Cambridge in that direction has greatly enhanced the value of the property. In accordance with provisions made by Dr. Tubman the children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Tubman inherit the property after the death of their parents. Robert E. Tubman, president of the Robert E. Tubman Company of Baltimore is one of these heirs and is now in possession of the home place.

"Glasgow" adjoins "Hambrook." Many handsome bungalows and "shore" houses have in recent years been erected upon the beautiful sites of the "Hambrook" estate. The house at "Glasgow," from all accounts, must have been built prior to 1760. It is of brick, with walls a foot thick, and the floors throughout are of solid black walnut. It has massive doors, and the large wainscoted rooms are adorned with colonial mantelpieces and deep windows. The house contains sixteen large rooms, and it is an interesting fact that the former owner, Robert C. Tubman, and all his children were born in the same room. While modern conveniences have been added in recent years, the original house is unchanged. A boulevard connecting the town with "Hambrook," passes through the "Glasgow" estate. This beautiful old country home has been in the Tubman family and continuously occupied by them for a period of nearly eighty years.

OLD TRINITY CHURCH

Built about 1680

IN the latter part of the seventeenth century the English settlers, bringing with them from the old country their church devotion, had arrived in sufficient numbers on the Eastern Shore to necessitate the building of places of worship. One of the first of these, the original walls of which are still standing, dating back to about 1680, is situated in south Dorchester, near the little town of Church Creek.

Two centuries have elapsed since the doors of Trinity Episcopal Church, familiarly known as "The Old Church," were first opened for divine service, and while it has at times fallen into a sad state of decay, it has always been rescued by those who felt the silent and pathetic appeal of its crumbling walls.

The exact date of its erection cannot be determined, owing to the loss of the earliest records. The building was at first cruciform in shape, but in the middle of the nineteenth century one wing was removed, giving it a curious architectural appearance. At that time the interior was remodeled, and in the effort to improve it, many of its most attractive features were destroyed. The high-backed pews,

the high pulpit with its sounding-board, and the gallery with steps leading up from the outside were all sacrificed to modern ideas. At the same time the tiled floor was covered with boards. When the church was repaired in the summer of 1914 it was the desire of those in charge of the work to restore the original tiles, but this had to be abandoned owing to the crumbling of the bricks. April 17, 1853, the church was reconsecrated by the Right Reverend Henry J. Whitehouse, Bishop of Illinois, and first given the name of Trinity. Visitors to the church are shown with much pride a handsome red velvet cushion said to have been sent to it by Queen Anne, and upon which she is said to have knelt to receive her crown. It is of royal quality velvet and in a perfect state of preservation.

In 1914 this historic and venerated church was in imminent danger of collapsing, but a few of those who were deeply interested in its preservation succeeded in raising a fund to put it in perfect order so that it will now stand for another half century, at least. Those who wander around the cemetery surrounding the church find an unwritten poem as perfect as Gray's immortal "Elegy in a Country Churchyard." It is the resting place of one of the governors of the State, Thomas King Carroll, and there stands the beautiful monument erected by a grateful people to his son, Dr. Thomas King Carroll, notable as being the only one in this section of the country erected to a physician by the unsolicited offerings of his patients and friends. In a far corner are the graves of several soldiers of the Revolution, and scattered about are the graves of those who once wore the Blue and the Gray.

REHOBOTH

Built about 1725

UNTIL 1684 Somerset County claimed "Nanticoke Hundred" in Dorchester. The dispute over the territory was finally settled by a commission, which decided that the northeast branch of the Nanticoke River was the boundary and not North-West Fork.

One of the most prominent families living in this vicinity were the Lees, allied with the distinguished Lee family of Virginia. A tract of 2,350 acres, known as "Rehoboth," was patented to Capt. John Lee in 1673, upon which fifty years later was built the quaint old brick house, which is unchanged and in a perfect state of preservation at the present time.

Upon the death of Capt. John Lee the estate was inherited by his brother, Col. Richard Lee, of "Mount Pleasant," Virginia, who had large holdings in that State in addition to this property. Dying in 1714, he devised the place to his son, Philip, who then lived in Prince George's County, Maryland, and who died in 1744, leaving to each of his sons, Corbin, John, George and Francis, and to his grandson, Philip Lee, portions of the estate.

Thomas Lee, son of Richard Lee II, the father of Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, both of whom were signers of the Declaration of Independence, owned 1,300 acres of "Rehoboth," which he left at his death in 1770 to his eldest son, and entailed it on his second and third sons. Thus Philip Ludwell Lee became the next owner of the 1,300 acres, but the record of his disposition of the estate has been lost.

Francis Lee was living upon his share of the original estate in 1745 when he was a member of the Assembly of Maryland; at his death in 1749 the property passed to his son, Francis Leonard Lee. The land records of Dorchester County show that Lettice Corbin Lee, sister of Philip, sold in 1787 "a tract of land of 200 acres called 'Rehoboth' " to John Smoot, which seems to have ended the ownership of the Lees.

The next owner of whom there is a record was Major Frank Turpin, who was first a captain in the militia of Dorchester County during the Revolutionary War, when the house was a rendezvous for many military men. Major Turpin, who died in 1829, was interred on the estate which has since been known as the "Turpin Place" and has had numerous owners.

Situated upon the banks of the Nanticoke River, the venerable old house is visible from both the little towns of Eldorado and Brookview. Besides the usual carved wainscoting, high mantelpieces, and deep windows, indicative of the colonial period, it has a distinctive feature especially worthy of note. Over the mantels in the parlor and dining-room, built into the walls, are panel-paintings, which seem to be reproductions of some magnificent country estate of the old English type, and "thereby hangs a tale" which, because of its antiquity, will doubtless never be revealed.

CECIL COUNTY

1674

CECIL County was named for Cecilius Calvert, the first Proprietary of the Province of Maryland, and was erected by proclamation the 6th day of June, 1674. Within the bounds laid down in this proclamation all of the present County of Kent was inadvertently included. The bounds given in the proclamation are as follows: "that from the mouth of the Susquehanough River and so down the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay to Swan Point and from thence to Hell Point and so up the Chester River to the head thereof is hereby erected into a county and called by the name of Cecil County." This proclamation was met with such a storm of protest from the inhabitants of the lower part of the present County of Kent that the Proprietary in less than two weeks issued an order, dated June 19, 1674, giving back to Kent the territory she had held for so many years. Within the lines was part of Baltimore County, which at its creation in 1659 included all of the Eastern Shore north of a line in Kent County drawn from about the head of Fairlee Creek to the Chester River near where Chestertown now stands. Land records are to be found in the Baltimore City Record Office covering the sale of lands along the Sassafras River, and indeed along both sides of Worton Creek, prior to 1674.

In the erection of Cecil County it is quite possible that Cecilius Calvert wished to have a permanent monument bear his name. He was then getting to be an old man and had been Proprietary of the Province for forty-two years. Through the most difficult situations he had watched the varying fortunes of his favored land, Maryland. No doubt this opportunity to have his name perpetuated appealed strongly to him and strange to say he lived only a year after the proclamation erecting the county was issued. He died November 30, 1675.

In striking contrast to the rolling and level lands of Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot, Cecil's hills along the Susquehanna furnish the setting for as beautiful scenery as is to be found along the famous Hudson River. Hills are also to be found along the Elk and Sassafras and these rivers are indeed two beautiful bodies of water. There are many, many miles of water front to this delightful county and here have come since the founding of the Province men of distinction and fortune and set up their homes on Cecil's fair lands that overlook the waters of the Chesapeake, the Susquehanna, the Shannon, the Elk and the Sassafras. To these waters John Smith, in 1608, came on his voyage of discovery, having been sent up the Chesapeake Bay to make a map of it and its tributaries. His description of the country, of the Indian inhabitants, of the wild game and the wild fowl, furnishes most entertaining reading, and is said to be the earliest description of that part of Maryland now within Cecil County.

Years after John Smith had visited this country around the head of the Chesapeake one Bohemian, Col. Augustine Herman, came through the county on his way to St. Mary's City, then the capital of the Province, having been commissioned by the Dutch at New York to take up some business with the Proprietary. A few years later Augustine Herman entered into an agreement with the Calverts to make a survey of the Province and deliver to them a map setting forth the water courses, islands, Indian tribes and villages and other interesting data, in consideration for which the Proprietary was to give him a large tract of land on the Bohemia River. Upon the completion of the map it was taken to London and there engraved and printed in 1672. Herman showed by this noteworthy piece of work that he was a skilled engineer and with it a very close observer. Copies of this map may be seen in the Library of the Maryland Historical Society. It is remarkable how closely it approximates the present shore lines of the State.

On his return from England in 1680, Charles Calvert, then Proprietary of the Province, brought to Maryland with him his kinsman, George Talbot, and had surveyed for him a grant of 32,000 acres and named it "New Connought." His cousin was described in the grant as "George Talbot of Castle Rooney in the County of Ross-

common in the Kingdom of Ireland, Esq^r." To this great tract of land Talbot afterward gave the name of "Susquehanna Manor" and his grant empowered Talbot to hold both courts baron and courts leet.

The first settlement in Cecil County was on Palmer's Island, now known as Garrett's Island, in the mouth of the Susquehanna River, in 1628, just twenty years after John Smith explored the Chesapeake Bay. This settlement, like the one on the "Kentish Isle," was one of Claiborne's trading posts and at that time was a part of the Virginia Colony's lands. The first permanent settlement in what is now Cecil County was at Carpenter's Point near the mouth of Principio Creek. During the years just after the erection of the county settlements were made along the water courses and when the Assembly authorized the erection of some "necessary" towns in 1683, one was laid out on "Captain Jones' Creek," now erroneously called Cabin John's Creek, in Elk River. Here in Cecil, as in the other counties, the court was held at the houses of different men and for their entertainment the justices paid in tobacco each year when "the levy was struck." At Ordinary Point in Sassafras River a court house was standing in the year 1679. This is attested by a Labadist who was visiting in the Colonies at the time and describes his experiences in crossing the Sassafras River from Ordinary Point on his way to Kent County. Later on, 1717, the court house was taken to Court House Point, and the old court house at Ordinary Point was sold at public auction in 1719. The court was then held at Court House Point on "Bohemia Manor," but was later taken to Charlestown and thence, June 11, 1778, to "Head of Elk," a village at the head of Elk River. In 1786 the Assembly authorized the building of a court house at "Head of Elk" and in 1787 this village became incorporated and the name was changed to Elkton. Elkton is now a thriving town with a delightful farming country surrounding it and the modern improvements and luxuries are everywhere to be seen.

Charlestown was laid out in 1742 and contains many quaint old houses. It was supposed at one time that this location on the Northeast River, sometime known as the "Shannon," would make a metropolis of Charlestown and that Baltimore would never be as large. Fredericktown on the Sassafras was laid out in 1736 and like Frenchtown and Charlestown was burned by the British in the War

of 1812–14. It was to the country around Fredericktown that refugee Acadians came in 1755 and there are still some of their descendants living in the county. It was in Principio that iron was made as early as 1740 and shipped to England. Ore was found in the surrounding counties as well as in Cecil and taken to the Principio Furnaces for reduction.

In the Act of Assembly of 1723, authorizing the establishment of a free school in each county, the commissioners named to purchase the 100 acres of land on which to build the Cecil School were Col. John Ward, Maj. John Dowdall, Col. Benjamin Pearce, Stephen Knight, Edward Jackson, Richard Thompson and Thomas Johnson, Junior. The land was bought on the south side of Bohemia River in Sassafras Neck. There is in the county a great school—the Tome Institute, founded through the generosity of one of Cecil's sons, Jacob Tome. This magnificent institution is beautifully located on the hills along the Susquehanna River above the thriving town of Port Deposit.

Another institution of learning in Cecil County is the West Nottingham Academy, which was founded by the Presbyterians in 1741 for the preparation of young men for the ministry. Its founding is due to the Rev. Samuel Findley, who served as pastor of the Nottingham Presbyterian church seventeen years and who was a man of sincere piety and intellectual power. The school soon became widely known throughout the country and drew to it many students from a distance. Among those who received their education there may be mentioned Governor Martin of North Carolina, Governor Henry of Maryland, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, whose renown is in connection with the University of Pennsylvania.

The Presbyterians of Cecil County look back to the early days of West Nottingham, about 1724, with pride, for it was at that place and at that time the Scotch-Irish settlers in upper Cecil County laid the foundation of Presbyterianism in the county. Under the date of March 23, 1724, the following record appears in the minutes of the New Castle (Delaware) Presbytery:—

> Ordered that Mr. Houston supply the people at the Mouth of Octoraro the fifth Sabbath of May, and Mr. Thomas Evans the third Sabbath of April.

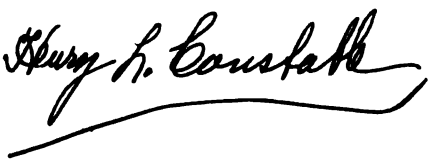
That congregation was later called Lower Octoraro and was a branch of West Nottingham. To the energy and personal magnetism of the Rev. James Magraw, D.D., born in 1775, more than to any other person is due the present strength of Presbyterianism in Cecil County. His work from 1801 to 1835 was especially effective in the Octoraro Valley and the northern part of the county.

St. Francis Xavier's Church near Warwick, one of the very early Roman Catholic places of worship in Cecil County, was erected by the Jesuits. It was in the school connected with this church that the first Roman Catholic bishop in Maryland, John Carroll, was educated. Bishop Carroll was the founder of Georgetown College, in the District of Columbia.

One of Cecil's sons who has taken his place among the famous men of America, James Rumsey, the inventor of steam-driven boats, was born near the head of Bohemia River.

The county responded early to the help of the struggling confederation of colonies in their war against Great Britain in 1776. While no battles were fought on her soil, it was, however, due to her geographic situation that Cecil was the scene of great activities throughout the war. Three battalions of volunteers were raised in Cecil, consisting of about 750 men each. Col. Charles Rumsey commanded the Second Battalion, Col. John Veazey, the Eighteenth, and Col. George Johnson, the Thirtieth. Col. Henry Hollingsworth was the recognized agent in Cecil for the Continental Congress. General Washington and that generous and distinguished Frenchman, General de La Fayette, were not infrequent visitors to Elkton and the county during the Revolution.

When the Church of England was established in Maryland in 1692 what is now known as St. Stephen's Parish was part of North Sassafras Parish, which was then coextensive with Elk, Bohemia and North Sassafras Hundreds.



BOHEMIA MANOR

GRANTED 1662

MARYLAND was a British colony and the early settlers came from both England and Ireland. To Bohemia belongs the distinction of being represented by the first person, Augustine Herman by name, who, because of his non-British birth, was obliged to obtain citizenship in Maryland by an Act of the Assembly. In his petition, 1666, for citizenship, he stated that he was born at Prague, in the Kingdom of Bohemia, and that his children were born at New York. He had gone to New York in the employ of the West India Company in 1633, and being a man of strong personality he soon became prominent in the affairs of the Dutch settlement on the Hudson River.

In 1659 he was sent by Governor Stuyvesant to Governor Calvert to "ask in a friendly way the re-delivery and restitution of such free people and servants as had taken refuge in the Province of Maryland." It was while on this mission that he was first shown the beautiful lands, now in Cecil County but then in Baltimore County, that were later to become his own. Augustine Herman was an engi-

neer of ability and soon after his return to New York he went again to see Governor Calvert at St. Mary's City and entered into an agreement with him to make a map of Maryland for which he was to receive a large tract of land. He began his work on the map at once and on the 19th of June, 1662, was granted 4,000 acres on the Elk River, which he named "Bohemia Manor."

Upon that tract he selected a beautiful site on which he built his manor house. The view toward the west is out over a broad expanse of water and backed by the hills of the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay—a view rarely equalled in Maryland. Of the fine manor house that he built and which stood for nearly 125 years nothing remains save a few scattered bricks to show its original outlines. The grounds around the old manor house were laid out on a grand scale, and a park in which many deer were kept was enclosed by a high fence near the house where the master could see his pets. The present house was built by the Bayards—the present owners.

The Provincial Assembly in 1671 authorized Augustine Herman to build a prison on "Bohemia Manor," twenty feet square, of logs in which to keep the "runaways" from the "Delaware and Northern Settlements." The Province was assessed 10,000 pounds of tobacco to pay for the building and its maintenance for one year. "Bohemia Manor," 1662, "Mill Fall," 1664, "Small Hope," 1664, "Misfortune," 1678, "Little Bohemia," 1681, "Bohemia Sisters," 1683, granted to Augustine Herman, and "St. Augustine's Manor," 1684, granted to his son, Ephraim George Herman, were in 1722 all in the hands of John Jarward, who married the widow of Augustine Herman. These lands comprised about 20,000 acres of the best farm lands of Cecil and New Castle (Delaware) Counties, and extended from the Bohemia River to near Middletown, Delaware.

Augustine Herman's wife was Jannetje, daughter of Caspar and Judith Varlet, of New Netherlands, who was born in Utrecht, and to whom he was married at New Amsterdam on December 10, 1651. Their five children were Ephraim George, Casparus, Anna Margaretta, Judith and Francina. From this famous Bohemian settler is descended many Maryland families, prominent among whom are the Bouchelles, Oldhams, Masseys, Bordleys, Thompsons, Stumps, Constables and Hynsons.

FRENCHTOWN HOUSE

Built about 1800

THIS house stands upon the banks of the Elk River, about three miles south of Elkton, near the old wharf at Frenchtown, and has a varied and interesting history. Just when it was built is not now known, but it is constructed on the same general plan as "Holly Hall," now the home of Mrs. George R. Ash. It was built on part of the estate of Frisby Henderson, who was a very large landowner in this part of Cecil. He also owned "White Hall" and "Scotland Point," two tracts lying across the Elk River in Elk Neck.

During the invasion of the Chesapeake Bay by the British fleet under Admiral Cockburn, Frenchtown was burned, April 29, 1813. It was defended by a fort constructed of logs, and in which were three guns. The soldiers in charge of the fort thought their number too small to make a successful defence, left the fort and went to Elkton. The sturdy stage drivers and other patriotic men of the town manned the guns and made a heroic fight against the British vessels until forced by the exhaustion of their ammunition to abandon the fort.

Strange to say, this house was saved from the torch. It was used for a hotel for many years, although built for a residence.

The Frenchtown and New Castle Railroad, which connected the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, began as a turnpike company organized in 1809, then operating a freight line between Baltimore and Philadelphia. The freight was taken on sloops from Baltimore to Frenchtown and then by wagon to New Castle, Delaware. There it was loaded on vessels for delivery in Philadelphia. When steam was applied to boats the "Chesapeake," the first steam-driven boat to ply upon the waters of Maryland, made its first trip from Baltimore to Frenchtown. In 1824, when General Lafayette came to America, he was met at Frenchtown by a committee aboard the steamer "United States" commanded by Captain Tripp. Lafayette had traveled by stage to Frenchtown.

Across the Elk River from Frenchtown is a peninsula called Elk Neck; the Chesapeake Bay and Northeast River bound it on the west and the Elk River on the east. To this part of Cecil have come many persons of wealth who found delightful water sites on which they have built beautiful homes. E. F. Shanbacher, president of the Fourth Street National Bank of Philadelphia, owns "Lower Triumph," a tract of 547 acres, which was resurveyed in 1691 for William Dare. William Dare was one of the Commissioners of Justice for Cecil County at that time and in 1684 had been appointed Sheriff of Cecil. He obtained grants for several tracts in the county.

Properly belonging to the early history of this vicinity is the story of the beginnings of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which now, as at the time, (1799), the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia ordered a survey to be made with a view of constructing a canal on this route, seems so important to the welfare of the coastwise commerce and naval forces of the United States.

On April 15, 1824, work was begun on the canal under John Randel, Jr., a civil engineer of New York. Owing to disagreement Randel was relieved as engineer and the work completed October 17, 1829, under Benjamin Wright. The canal begins at Chesapeake City, in Cecil County, and enters the Delaware Bay at Delaware City, Delaware. It is nearly fourteen miles long, and cost $2,250,000.

HOLLY HALL

Built 1802

"HOLLY HALL" is one of the fine old places of Cecil and is renowned for the genuine hospitality always extended by its owners, from Gen. James Sewell, who built the house in 1802, down to the present owner, the widow of George R. Ash, of Elkton. "Holly Hall" was so named because of the profusion of holly trees growing on the place.

These holly trees, with the immense boxwood hedges, give a very picturesque setting for the old mansion. The lawns are beautifully kept and the great trees that surround "Holly Hall" add to its charm. The house stands on a part of the Rudulph estate, the land being owned by Ann Maria Rudulph at the time (1802) she married General Sewell. He was a son of Basil and Elizabeth Dawson Sewell, of Talbot County, and went to Elkton to live about 1800.

The newly built State highway which passes along the front of "Holly Hall" leads from Elkton through Chesapeake City, on through Chestertown, in Kent County, to the lower end of the Eastern Shore.

PARTRIDGE HILL

Built about 1750

HENRY HOLLINGSWORTH came to Cecil County about 1700 and was appointed deputy surveyor for the county in 1712. From him has descended the long line of distinguished citizens of the name. His grandson, Col. Henry Hollingsworth built "Partridge Hill" prior to 1750. It is situated in Elkton and fronts on Main Street. The lot on which the house stands is beautifully laid out in walks bordered with boxwood hedges. The house is built of English bricks and its most distinguishing feature is its wide colonial hall. From the rear of the hall a quaint stairway leads up to the spacious sleeping rooms. The furnishings of the house were of the choicest of the colonial.

Col. Henry Hollingsworth married a wealthy woman, Jane Evans, of Cecil County, and by her had several children. He was a noted patriot and during the Revolutionary War was engaged in the manufacture of gun-barrels and bayonets for the Council of Safety for Maryland. Mistress Hollingsworth was far too particular a housewife to enjoy the books and papers of the Colonel scattered around

her home, so, during his absence at a session of the Maryland Assembly, one winter, she had an office built for him adjoining the residence. When the Colonel came home he found all his belongings moved into the new office, and there they stayed!

The grandchildren of Colonel Hollingsworth, Mary, Jane E. and the late John Partridge, inherited "Partridge Hill" and when the Partridge estate was settled the property was sold to the late John Gilpin. He left it to his sister, Miss Margaret A. Gilpin, the present owner.

GILPIN MANOR

TOBIAS RUDULPH HOUSE

BUILT 1768

AMONG the early houses built at "Head of Elk" is the "Tobias Rudulph House," which stands on Main Street in Elkton. It is now used as an office by Henry L. Constable and has been a familiar landmark in the town for many years. It was built by Tobias Rudulph when there were few houses in the neighborhood and at the time it was constructed stood directly on the highway between Baltimore and Philadelphia. It is of brick and the style of architecture not unlike that of the house at Valley Forge which served as headquarters for General Washington.

In each room there is a quaint fireplace. In the fireplace in the parlor there is a cast-iron plate bearing the inscription in raised letters,

"T. R. 1769." The doors are of heavy oak, fashioned in the antique "cross" pattern and the original wrought-iron hinges and latches are still to be seen. The stairway evidences the greatest care in building.

Tobias Rudulph and his three brothers, Bartholomew, Hanse and Jacob, settled at "Head of Elk" and carved out of the forest homes for themselves. By the time the Revolutionary War began they had established themselves very comfortably in the old settlement at the head of the Elk River. In this old house was born to Tobias Rudulph two sons, John and Tobias II, and two daughters. Tobias Rudulph III, lawyer and poet, was also born there, as was his sisters, Ann Maria, who married Gen. James Sewell of "Holly Hall," and Martha, who married Rev. William Torbert. The latter's heirs now own the property.

John Rudulph served throughout the Revolutionary War as a major in "Light Horse Harry" Lee's battalion of light dragoons, familiarly known as "Lee's Legion." His cousin, Michael Rudulph also served in "Lee's Legion" as a captain. Their courage won for them the proud distinction of "Lions of the Legion." Michael Rudulph married a lady of Savannah, Georgia, but their married life was not harmonious and he concluded to lead the life of a seafaring man. There is a tradition current in Cecil County that Marshal Ney was none other than Michael Rudulph.

This house has been closely connected with the political history of Cecil. Eliza Black Groome, a sister of Governor James Black Groome, married Albert Constable, a noted Maryland lawyer. Governor Groom, (4 March 1874–12 January, 1876), had been preceded at Annapolis from Cecil by Thomas Ward Veazey, (14 January, 1836–7 January, 1839), the last Maryland Governor elected by the Legislature. Cecil has had a third Governor, Austin Lane Crothers, (8 January, 1908–10 January, 1912).

CHARLESTOWN

1752

TO Charlestown, at the head of the Chesapeake Bay on the west side of Northeast River, the people of the Province looked for the eventual metropolis of Maryland. By Act of the Assembly, September, 21, 1742, Col. Thomas Colwill, Capt. Nicholas Hyland, Benjamin Pearce, William Alexander, Henry Baker, Zebulon Hollingsworth and John Read were appointed commissioners to lay out and erect a town at a place called Long Point on the west side of Northeast River.

Squares were laid off for a court house, a market house and other public buildings. A public wharf and store were built, a shipyard was constructed and the usual activities consequent caused Philadelphia to wonder how soon her trade would be diverted to Charlestown! The March term of Cecil Court, 1781, was held in two rooms rented from Alexander Hasson. Charlestown was, however, soon out of the race, for, in 1786, the growth and prosperity of "Head of Elk," together with the influence of the Hollingsworths, demanded the removal of the seat of justice to that place. This was done, "Head of Elk" becoming known as Elkton.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

AN ORIGINAL MARYLAND PARISH

A FEW miles to the north of the Sassafras River stands St. Stephen's Church, surrounded by a beautiful grove of trees. All around this church for miles in every direction lie the rich lands of the southern part of Cecil County.

This one of the thirty parishes laid out in 1692 embraced what was then known as North Sassafras, Bohemia and Elk Hundreds, and was called North Sassafras Parish. Near the present building an old

church had been standing for some years and when the work of laying out the parishes was begun the edifice gave way because of its inconvenient location to one built on the land—100 acres—bought of William Ward. Although the vestry contracted for a building to be erected then, it was not dedicated until March 25, 1706, and it was at that time that the parish name was changed from North Sassafras to St. Stephen's.

The first vestrymen of St. Stephen's were elected on November 22, 1692, and they were Col. Caspar Herman, Maj. John Thompson, William Ward, Henry Rigg, Matthias Vanderheyden and Henry Jones.

After nearly thirty years the vestry contracted, in 1733, for a larger church building and the edifice was completed in 1737. In 1823 this old church became unsafe as a place of worship because of its decayed condition, and the vestry determined to take it down and rebuild it. The rebuilding of the church was completed and on July 21, 1824, it was consecrated by Bishop Kemp. That building stood until 1873, when the present church was erected.

In 1744, St. Stephen's Parish was divided and Augustine Parish formed of the northern part of the old parish. The chapel on "Bohemia Manor" became the parish church of Augustine Parish. The first minister was the Rev. Lawrence Vanderbush, who was regularly inducted into his place by Governor Francis Nicholson, the then Governor of the Province of Maryland. Many of the clergy who from time to time were rectors of this old parish became famous. The records of the parish have been carefully copied and the copies are filed with the Maryland Historical Society. There are over 500 different family names on the records, among them the following:

Atkins	Etherington	Hynson	Miller	Savin	Ward
Beaston	Ford	Ireland	Morgan	Scott	Watts
Beck	Frisby	James	Newman	Severson	Watson
Bell	Fulton	Jones	Nicholson	Sluyter	Wellinger
Biddle	Gordon	Kemp	Newland	Steele	Wharton
Bouchelle	Harper	Kennedy	Pearce	Stevens	Wheeler
Boulden	Henderson	Kennard	Pennington	Sutton	Wickes
Comegys	Herman	Knight	Perkins	Simmonds	Williams
Clark	Hewes	Lassell	Porter	Taylor	Wilmer
Cosden	Hill	Latham	Powell	Thompson	Wood
Cox	Hollingsworth	Lloyd	Price	Van Bibber	Wroth
Crawford	Holt	Lusby	Reed	Vanderheyden	Young
Crookshanks	Holten	MacDowell	Reynolds	Vanzandt	
Crow	Hotchkiss	Matthews	Rider	Veazey	
Currey	Houston	Mercer	Roberts	Wallis	
Davis	Hutchinson	Merritt	Rumsey	Walmsley	

PERRY POINT

SURVEYED 1658

WHERE the Susquehanna empties its swift current into the Chesapeake, a colonial mansion stands. On the eastern side of the river on Perry Point is the home of the Stumps of Cecil County, commanding a beautiful view of the surrounding country, the bay and the river. Across on the Harford side is historic Havre de Grace and the little white Point Concord Light House, which serves as a guide to the watermen of the upper bay.

"Perry Point," which now contains upward of 500 acres, was surveyed July 20, 1658, and then embraced 800 acres. This tract and "Perry Neck," which adjoined it and was surveyed for 200 acres July 23, 1658, were patented to John Bateman. "Perry Point" was purchased by John Stump in 1800 from George Gale, and is still owned by the former's descendants. John Stump died at "Perry Point" in 1828, and the next owner was his son, John, who married Mary Alecia, a daughter of Col. George E. Mitchell and his wife, Mary Hooper, of Dorchester. Two of their sons were the late Associate Judge Frederick Stump, of the Second Judicial Circuit, (1867–

1901), and Associate Judge Henry Arthur Stump of the present Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. John Stump, Jr., and Dr. George M. Stump were the second and third sons.

The progenitor of the family in Maryland, the first John Stump, came to America about 1700 and lived near Perryville. From his two sons, John and Henry, descended the Stumps of Cecil and Harford. Judge Henry Stump, years ago Judge of the Criminal Court of Baltimore City, was of this northeastern Maryland family, and two of the Harford Stumps widely known in public life are former Congressman Herman Stump, United States Commissioner-General of Immigration under Cleveland, and his nephew, Bertram N. Stump, now Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of Baltimore. Both John and Henry, sons of the emigrant, settled eventually in Harford, and the third John, son of Henry, long a Baltimore merchant, married his cousin, Hannah, daughter of John Stump and Hannah Husband, who was a descendant of Augustine Herman. The six daughters of the fourth John, of "Perry Point," were Mary, who married Rev. T. S. C. Smith; Anna J., who married William Webster; Henrietta, who married Alexander Mitchell; Katherine W., who married Dr. James M. Magraw; Elizabeth H., who married J. Iverson Boswell; and Alicia Mitchell Stump.

The property was in Revolutionary times bounded on the north by the old post road that led from Philadelphia to Baltimore and Annapolis and along which the troops of the Continental Army marched on their way to Yorktown, to assist in the defeat of Cornwallis. A ferry over the Susquehanna was operated during the summer months but during winter time travel across the river was carried on over the ice.

George Gale, from whom "Perry Point" was bought, a Representative in the First Congress, was in 1795 commissioned to purchase that part of Whetstone Point in Baltimore, on which Fort McHenry is built. In a letter to Robert Purviance, then Collector of the Port of Baltimore, Oliver Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury in President Washington's Cabinet, writes under date of March 2, 1795: "I have therefore to request that you will consider Mr. Gale as the person who is now authorized on the part of the United States to purchase the land in question." The fort was then in the course of construction.

SUCCESS

SURVEYED 1683

WHERE the blue hills of Cecil join the gray skyline way up the Susquehanna River there stands an old house, built about 1734, on the farm known as "Success." Thomas Lightfoot received this grant, which was surveyed for him November 3, 1683. It then contained 300 acres. He also received a grant for an adjoining 600 acres surveyed the same day; this property he called "The Land of Delight." From Thomas Lightfoot it descended to Thomas Hammond, who owned these two properties in 1722, as will be seen upon reference to Lord Baltimore's rent rolls of that year. In 1734 we find "Success" in possession of Thomas Hammond Cromwell, whose descendants, the Misses Isabella and Mary H. Nickles, now own the property.

The Susquehanna River, which is in full view of the old house, bounds the farm on the west. To the east is Rowlandsville, a pretty little hamlet that nestles in the hills along the banks of the sparkling, swift-flowing Octoraro Creek. The main road that leads from Port Deposit to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, bounds the farm on the east. To the north and adjoining "Success" is the old "Smith's Fort"

place, which was granted Capt. Richard Smith on the 20th of June, 1685. There is a tradition current in the neighborhood that the famous adventurer, Capt. John Smith, while exploring the Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River in 1608, went up to this place in his boats and that it is the first place in Cecil County on which a white man ever set foot.

To the south is "Mount Welcome," the homestead of the Halls of Revolutionary fame. From these farms along the Susquehanna most delightful views of the river and surrounding hills are to be had. The old house on "Success" farm is a one-and-a-half story structure with hip roof and dormer windows. The property was in the Cromwell family for a number of years. They were descendants of Thomas Hammond and the old burying ground near the house contains the graves of many of that name and a monument has been erected there in their memory.

It is said that Betsy Claypoole, who later became famous as Betsy Ross, was a frequent visitor at "Success Farm," and who is it that can say she did not cut out the white stars to be sewed on the blue field of her flag while she was visiting at this old homestead?

Close to this farm is the famous "Mount Ararat," in a cave of which George Talbot hid when a fugitive from justice.

He was a reckless character and wound up his career in the Province by killing John Rousby. It is said that Talbot hid in a cave on "Mount Ararat," overlooking the Susquehanna River, after making his escape through the aid of his wife and devoted friends from Virginia, where he had been taken for trial. Tradition says that he had there a pair of falcons which he sent out from the cave each day to procure food for him. He finally fled to Ireland, and was later killed in France fighting for Great Britain.

Around the neighborhood live the Harlans, members of which family have become famous in the annals of Maryland history. The Rowlands, who lived in the Octoraro Valley, have given to the State men who have become prominent as financiers.

Only a few miles up the Susquehanna there is a bridge across the river into Harford County at Conowingo. From this point a splendid macadam road, frequented by automobile tourists, leads direct to Baltimore.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

1706

FIRST of Maryland soil to be settled, (Claiborne's settlement, August 21, 1631, on Kent Island); first to have a regular church establishment, (from August 21, 1631, Claiborne constantly maintained a clergyman in his settlement); first to resist hostile Indians; with the first to resist the British in Revolutionary times, (against Lord Dunmore's troops on Cherrystone Creek, Accomac County, Virginia, in 1775); resisting bravely the British invasion of August 3 and 4, 1813, and doing her part in the Mexican and Civil Wars, Queen Anne's County has been to the fore in these and other ways in Maryland history.

Her area consists of 219,072 well-watered acres, divided into 37,848 acres of woodland and 181,224 acres of farmland. It stretches over a clay or sandy loam on a plateau whose greatest height is about 200 feet. It slopes gently south and southwest to the long and broad and deep Chester River. That river and its frequent affluents, the habitat of wild fowl, oysters, crabs and terrapin, and the Chesapeake Bay and its creeks, give to Queen Anne's County the second longest water-shore line in the state—348 miles. Similarly she holds the record in Maryland for having the second largest percentage of woods to farmlands. Contiguously south of her is the gallant little County of Talbot, which is first in both of the above particulars and from whom and from fertile and far-spreading old Kent to her northward, she was created in 1706.

Resultant from her regional and exceptional percentage as to water-frontage and woodland, her well-drained and fertile soil, and the tempering influence of the Chesapeake Bay on her westward boundary, and because the east winds bring her frequently the fresh Atlantic air within an hour, the climate is unsurpassed. There spring comes earlier and rude winter enters later than along even the famous

"North Shore" region of Massachusetts and the brief summer heat is tempered by exceptional and flowing streams. Nature smiles in beauty, comfort and fertility upon the diligent dweller in the sturdy county of "good Queen Anne."

The price of land is comparatively low. But incoming residents will soon advance it. The markets of Philadelphia, Baltimore and other cities can be reached with ease that is yearly increasing by railroad, steamboat, sail and power craft. Not only do climatic, æsthetic and material advantages of the county beckon to the shrewd seeker for a farm, or for a healthy retreat, or for a pleasure home; but the charms of many old colonial dwellings add their persuasive emphasis. Has any county in the State so many mellow colonial dwellings awaiting new owners to arouse them from the enchanted sleep on which they fell when the economic changes wrought by the great Civil War swept into abeyance her old activities in the handling of farming lands?

In addition there are many of the ancient homesteads yet tended lovingly by the families to whom they have long pertained. There is "Conquest," an old Emory place, now owned by Frank Emory; and "Readbourne," the old Hollyday place, but owned by John Perry; and "Cloverfields," the old Hemsley place, owned by Mr. Callahan; and "Reed's Creek" and "Walnut Grove," two of the old Wright places, now owned respectively by Mrs. Clayton Wright and by Mrs. McKenny, who had first been married to its owner at that time, the late Thomas Wright.

The western half of the "Walnut Grove" house was built soon after 1685, I think, and by County Judge Solomon Wright, who married Miss Anne Hynson. Solomon Wright came to Maryland in 1673 with his brother, Nathaniel. In 1677 they were joined by their brother, Charles. Nathaniel built that yellow-washed brick house yet standing on the farm known as "Tully's Reserve." Charles built the "White Marsh" house, now owned and inhabited by Spencer Wright. Those three houses are yet in good condition. They are among the oldest in the county. Which of them is oldest? "Walnut Grove," I think, for Solomon Wright was the oldest brother and "Walnut Grove" was the first patented of the properties involved and had been taken up even earlier by Thomas Hynson, his father-in-law.

Solomon Wright had caused it to be resurveyed under the name of "Worplesdon" in 1685 and he there resided. I think that it is the oldest house in the county.

Then there is "Melfield House," the old Earle homestead, now owned by the widow of William B. Earle. Built by Judge James Tilghman, father-in-law of that able and Christian gentleman, Richard Tilghman Earle, born June 23, 1767, (Chief Judge of the upper Eastern Shore Circuit Court, and consequently a member of the State Court of Appeals), it has since continued to be a most hospitable and Christian home. Never was it a better center of neighborhood influence than under the mastership of the judge's son, the late and venerable Samuel Thomas Earle, grandfather of the publisher of this book. Beginning with the polished and able Judge Earle, "Melfield House" is closely knit with good and generous living, while the land on which it stands carries further back such happy associations, for it had long pertained to another fine Maryland influence, the Tilghman family, of which the mother of Judge Earle was a gracious member. The present occupant is that kindly and active gentleman, William B. Earle, great-grandson of Judge Richard Tilghman Earle.

And there is "The Hermitage," the beautiful cradle of the Tilghman family in this country. Taken up in 1659 it has received loving care from each of its successive owners; but none of them has equaled the splendid and effective devotion of its present owner, Miss Susan Frisby Williams. But as a great-granddaughter of that elegant gentleman and dashing soldier, the gallant Gen. Otho Holland Williams, of "The Maryland Line," and as a representative of the Tilghman family as well, her success is easily to be understood, for she is indeed "to the manor born." And many are the good and neighborly deeds she has done in the county and elsewhere.

Another family homestead is "Blakeford," patented as "Coursey's Neck" in 1658 by William DeCourcy, who, with his brother John, patented "Cheston-on-Wye" in the same year. Then, also, his elder brother, sometime Secretary of the Province, Henry DeCourcy, was given by Lord Baltimore "Coursey's Neck," which passed to William, and "My Lord's Gift," which he retained, and which is to the south of the present "Blakeford" and just across Coursey's Creek, now known as Queenstown Creek. Passing from the DeCourcys to the

Blakes, who had it resurveyed as "Blake's Fort," it was occupied for a while during the Revolution by Judge Solomon Wright of the Court of Appeals, (1778–92). His mother had been Mary DeCourcy. "Blakeford" was reacquired by the son of Judge Solomon Wright and Sarah DeCourcy of "Cheston-on-Wye," Governor Robert Wright, Revolutionary soldier, United States Senator, member of Congress and Circuit Judge. He was great-grandfather of the present owner, DeCourcy Wright Thom.

"Bloomingdale," devised by that well-known character, Miss Sallie Harris, to her cousin, the chivalrous and elegant scholar, reformer and gentleman, Severn Teackle Wallis, is another notable estate. But it is now owned by Hiram G. Dudley.

I have named but a few of the well-known estates of old Queen Anne's. I wish I could mention each on the long list of them. Only two more can I take room for: the spacious old red brick "Pratt House," now used as the County Almshouse, and the well-known "Old Point" house on Kent Island, built in 1722 by one of the Cockey family, some of whose members have owned it ever since.

And of old churches: there is ancient "Old Wye," perhaps one of the oldest church buildings in Maryland; and St. Luke's, ancient, too, at Church Hill.

Not only these old estates and churches are vocal with illustrative doings of the folk of old Queen Anne's County which was christened after "good Queen Anne." Around and about Kent Island from 1634 through 1645 waged the Claiborne-Calvert struggle, and the efforts to suppress treason on the Eastern Shore during the Revolutionary struggle centered around Queenstown, the county-seat, whence Judge Solomon Wright, already mentioned, acting by authority of the convention as a "special Judge to try Treasons," attended to that work when not serving as a member of the Revolutionary Conventions in Annapolis. Meanwhile, Matthew Tilghman, born at "The Hermitage," was leading all the patriotic forces of the Province as president of those conventions, and as chairman of the Committee of Safety.

And literature and arms have shed their luster on the old county. Who can forget the trenchant speeches and brilliant writings in prose and verse of the gifted Severn Teackle Wallis? And the clever writ-

ings of Frederic Emory, born at "Bloomfield," now owned by Col. John H. Evans, and deceased at "Blackbeard," were good and numerous, whether in newspaper or in novel or as Secretary of the Pan-American Board in Washington. Nor can I forbear to mention that quiet gentleman and accomplished scholar, William Hand Browne, born at "Bachelor's Hope" and deceased in Baltimore, where he had long successfully filled the chair of history at Johns Hopkins University. More extended histories of Maryland there are than his, but none surpass it in accuracy and in fine, full grasp of the spirit of our State's development.

There remains to me to mention the most illustrious of Queen Anne's soldiers, Gen. William Hemsley Emory, U.S. Army. He was born at "Poplar Grove" and died in Washington. Intending to follow his State and having to return from Maryland to his Western command, he left his resignation at the beginning of the Civil War in the hands of a brother whom he requested to forward it to official headquarters in Washington should Maryland secede. Misled as to that secession, the brother sent the resignation forward. The Secretary of War caused Emory to report to him under arrest and to explain his continuance in command of Federal troops. With much difficulty he assuaged the official's anger. Emory often distinguished himself in the Civil War. He was favorably considered as a possible commander-in-chief. Secretary of War Stanton opposed his nomination to that great office and vigorously asseverated that the record of his proffered resignation should forever bar him from the commandership-in-chief. Such are a few of our worthies.

But I have too long lingered in the telling of the story of the county I love so well. Is the Eastern Shore the modern Eden so often mentioned in the kindly badinage of the day? Who shall say us nay? But this I can avouch, that in fulness of opportunities to be availed of at most moderate prices, there is no portion of that laughing region which more than Queen Anne's County deserves the title of "The Promised Land."

THE HERMITAGE

GRANT 1659

RICHARD TILGHMAN, an eminent surgeon of London and grandson of William Tilghman, the elder, emigrated to Maryland in 1660. By a patent granted to him January 17, 1659, he came into possession of a manor on Chester River, where he settled and called his residence "Tilghman's Hermitage."

While the original grant to Richard Tilghman, the immigrant from Cecilius Calvert called for 400 acres, "The Hermitage" was extended to cover many times that area. From an old map in the possession of Miss Williams, made in the days when Richard Cooke Tilghman occupied "The Hermitage," the adjacent lands were occupied by the several branches of the Tilghman family, as follows:

"Waverley," by William Cooke Tilghman; "Greenwood," by Henry Cooke Tilghman; "Piney Point," by James Cooke Tilghman; "Oakleigh," by John Charles Tilghman.

"The Hermitage" may properly be referred to as the show-place of Queen Anne's County. As you enter the estate the drive up to the mansion passes for about a mile through an avenue of enormous pines; the Chester River appears in the distance through the vista.

A gracefully curved cinder road shaded by giants of the forest

guides you to the mansion. At "The Hermitage" once lived Matthew Tilghman, chairman of the Council of Safety, (1775), and a Delegate in the Continental Congress.

The present owner, Miss Susan Williams, is a direct descendant of the immigrant, being of the seventh generation in the female line, her great-grandmother, Mrs. William Cooke, formerly Elizabeth Tilghman, having been the sister of Richard Tilghman V, commonly called "the Colonel," who adopted as his heir her son upon condition that he would add Tilghman to his name, Colonel Tilghman's only son, Richard VI, having predeceased his father one year. Hence Richard Cooke, (the Colonel's nephew), became first of the branch to be known henceforth as the Cooke-Tilghmans. Miss Williams' grandmother was a sister of Richard Cooke Tilghman, and the peculiarity of the double coincidence lies in the fact that, whereas the inheritance of "The Hermitage" came to this branch through a female, so by a strange irony of fate the line becomes extinct through the single blessedness of a female.

Within a few feet of the front porch of "The Hermitage" is the Tilghman family burying ground, in which the large marble slabs are shaded by weeping willows. In this beautifully kept resting place of the dead are buried Dr. Richard Tilghman, the immigrant, and a long line of descendants.

READBOURNE

Built about 1731

THE Chester River, which ranks with the Choptank and the Miles in size and picturesqueness, washes the shores of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. Opposite Hail Point, where the Chester makes a sharp bend and flows northerly, is Queenstown Creek. On the Queen Anne's side of the river there are many noted estates visible from a boat going up the river. "Blakeford," "The Hermitage," "Reed's Creek," "Recovery," "Winton" and "Conquest" are passed before Deep Point is reached. Here the Chester River narrows down to about a mile in width. Just above Deep Point is "Indiantown," one of the Emory homes, and it is claimed to have been the location of an Indian village. About two miles above this point, situated on a ridge which runs parallel with and overlooks Chester River, is "Readbourne," which was the Hollyday homestead in Queen Anne's for many generations.

The original grant of "Readbourne" plantation was to George Read in 1659, and it is thought the name was taken from the first owner. Records state that he died without heirs and, after being

several times transferred, the plantation was bought by Col. James Hollyday, (son of Col. Thomas Hollyday and Mary Truman, of England), who had it resurveyed in 1682. The acreage is not given, but it is supposed to have been 2,000, and included several of the farms lying adjacent. In 1733 Col. James Hollyday with his wife, Sarah Covington Lloyd, (widow of Edward Lloyd, of "Wye House," and formerly the beautiful Sarah Covington), came to this estate from Talbot County to make it their home and built about 1731 the main part of the present mansion. The family story goes that Colonel Hollyday went to England for materials for building and furnishing the new house, while Mrs. Hollyday remained on the plantation with her family to supervise the building, having herself planned it after consulting with Lord Baltimore.

The original building is colonial in architecture and finish, with very large wainscoted hall and rooms. It has at various times been added to and altered, but the main part is still the same that made a home through 168 years for seven generations of the Hollyday family. Brick foundations of smaller buildings can be traced in the lawn and are probably those of the kitchen and dairy, which were connected by covered ways with the dwelling. There still remain ruins of one of these buildings, known as the "Old Store," supposed to be those of a storehouse for supplies ordered from England, which had to be gotten in quantity because of the infrequent opportunity. In the old wall which probably inclosed the riverside lawn are bricks of English pattern, which, like those in the upper walls of the original building, are traditionally supposed to have been brought from abroad by Colonel Hollyday. Less than half of one side of the lawn wall is now standing.

The last of the Hollyday family to own and live at "Readbourne" was the late Richard Hollyday, whose daughter, Margaret, married Dr. James Bordley, Jr., of Baltimore, who was the second President of the Eastern Shore Society of Baltimore City. In 1903 "Readbourne" was sold to John M. Perry, of Queen Anne's County, a member of the State Roads Commission under Governor Goldsborough. Mr. and Mrs. Perry make "Readbourne" their summer home.

OLD POINT

Built 1722

KENT Island! What a wealth of legendary lore and of interesting historical stories have been told of this old island, the place of the first settlement made in the State of Maryland!

Like a flash the mention of Kent Island brings Claiborne and his endeavors to your mind. And with him come visions of a host of Indians in canoes with beaver and otter skins, of squaws with papooses. The pipe of peace, the stories told by the Indians about the big game of the forests and about the "Mother of Waters"—the Chesapeake. You see the barges of the Proprietary approach the island to subdue Claiborne's insubordination, at which time the flag of the Baltimores was first flown aloft on a military errand. These and countless other incidents pass in quick succession as you recall from the past the colonial days of old Kent Island.

In 1639 a court was held in Kent Fort. In 1640, 1,000 acres, called "Kent Fort Manor," was surveyed for Giles Brent. Upon the building of a tobacco warehouse on Coxe's Creek and the establishing

of a town in 1684 by Act of the Colonial Assembly on that branch of Eastern Bay that part of the island became thickly settled.

Among the first settlers here were the Eareckson, Carvil, Kemp, Legg, Tolson, Cockey, Stevens, Weedon, Denny, Bright, Skinner, Chew, Cray, Bryan, Winchester, Wright, White, Price, Thompson, Sadler (now spelled Sudler), Ringgold, Goodhand and Osborne families and many others that have died out.

One of the early settlers, Capt. Edward Cockey, whose house is still standing and now the home of William Tristram Stevens, took up, 1685, a large tract of land on Coxe's Creek. It is said that his first wife, Miss Ball, was the sister of Gen. George Washington's mother, but from this marriage there was no issue. He married, secondly the widow Harris (*nee* Ringgold), and from this union all the Cockeys of the Eastern Shore are descended. Their son, John Cockey, a captain in the British Army, who resigned his commission at the time of the American Revolution, married Miss Sudler. He built "Old Point" in 1722, this date being set in one of the gables of this very oldest of the Kent Island colonial houses. This home is now owned by John Cockey, a direct descendant of Capt. Edward Cockey. Thus it will be seen that "Old Point" has been in this family for 230 years.

Close to the "Old Point" property Matthew Read had surveyed for him "Batts' Neck," which property descended to Joseph Sudler and was left by him to his wife, in whose possession it was in 1742, as shown by the rent rolls of that year.

BLAKEFORD

PATENTED 1658

OVERLOOKING the broadest part of Chester River through a grove of stately forest trees, well placed on a spacious lawn, is "Blakeford." This noted homestead of Queen Anne's is situated directly on Chester River and Queenstown Creek and is owned by W. H. DeCourcy Wright Thom, of Baltimore and Queen Anne's County.

The special interest of these old places on the Eastern Shore is their individualities and the manner of the first ownership of "Blakeford" is of unusual note. Secretary of the Province Henry DeCourcy had proved staunch and loyal during certain disturbances in the Province and had also effected a certain treaty with the Susquehannah Indians of the Iroquois Confederacy. In recognition, Charles, third Lord Baltimore, gave to Henry DeCourcy as much land shown on a certain map as he could cover with his thumb. The extreme tip of the thumb covered that part of the present "Blakeford" which was called "Courcy's Neck," the rest of it covered "My Lord's Gift," stretching from the entrance of Queenstown harbor to the south. Retaining "My Lord's Gift," Henry DeCourcy allowed his brother, William, to patent "Courcy's Neck." William retained it until he

sold it to the Blakes upon acquiring from his brother, John DeCourcy, his half of "Cheston-on-Wye," which they had taken up together.

The Blake of that day had "Courcy's Neck" and two other tracts resurveyed under the name of "Blake's Fort." That militant-sounding title came from the yet existing old earthworks fortification on the Chester River side of the southwesternmost extension of "Blakeford," as the name became through popular usage, because between it and "My Lord's Gift," just across the harbor entrance, there was at low tide an available ford. The old fort was used in Indian times, in Revolutionary days and during the War of 1812.

During part of the War of the Revolution Judge Solomon Wright, (1717–1792), son of County Judge Solomon Wright and Mary DeCourcy, discharged from "Blakeford," so favorably near Queenstown, then the county-seat, his duties as "special Judge to try Treasons on the Eastern Shore." He was a member of the Conventions of Maryland; a signer of the original Declaration of Freemen of Maryland, and a Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland from its creation in 1778 till he died in 1792. He left a very large landed estate. His son, Robert, fourteenth Governor of Maryland, (1806–1809), twice re-elected, was born November 20, 1752, and died at "Blakeford," September 7, 1826. He first practiced law in Chestertown and afterward in Queenstown. He was a private in Captain Kent's company of Minute Men. After serving in the Maryland Legislature he was elected United States Senator in 1801, and resigned in 1806, when elected Governor. He was a Representative in the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Seventeenth Congresses. In 1823 he became Associate Judge of the Second District. His wife was a distant cousin, Sarah DeCourcy, of "Cheston-on-Wye."

The next Wright to own "Blakeford" was his son, W. H. DeCourcy Wright, born at "Blakeford," September 9, 1795; died in Baltimore, March 25, 1864. His earlier, and much of his later, life was spent at his dearly-loved "Blakeford." He was appointed United States Consul at Rio de Janeiro in 1825, and so served for many successive years. His daughter, Clintonia Wright, widow of Captain William May, U.S. Navy, and afterward wife of Governor Philip Francis Thomas, succeeded him at "Blakeford." It is now in the keeping of his grandson, W. H. DeCourcy Wright Thom.

WALNUT GROVE — REED'S CREEK

BUILT 1681–85 — BUILT 1775

ON the peninsula which bears the name of Wright's Neck and washed by the confluent Reed's and Grove Creeks, tributaries of Chester River, are two delightfully situated homesteads of the Wright family—"Walnut Grove" and "Reed's Creek." These old houses are located on the land which was patented by Solomon Wright in 1685. That land had been originally taken up by his father-in-law, Thomas Hynson, but Solomon Wright had it resurveyed in 1685 as "Worplesdon."

Solomon Wright was born in England in 1655 and died in Maryland in 1717. He married Anne Hynson. Records show that when he died he was possessed of 2,000 acres of land and had been one of the leading men of his county and Province, having served as a Justice of the County Court in 1707 and 1708, as vestryman and warden of St. Paul's Parish in 1698, and as a member of the Assembly at Annapolis from Kent and Queen Anne's Counties from 1708 to 1715.

"The Walnut Grove" house is undoubtedly the oldest house in the county, it having been built between 1681 and 1685. While it is very

quaint and odd on the outside the interior is beautifully finished. This building with its farm descended to Solomon Wright's eldest son, Thomas Hynson Wright, (1688–1747), and came down through successive generations of his Wright descendants to the late Thomas Wright, by whose widow, now Mrs. William McKenney, Sr., it is held.

The "Reed's Creek" house, which is situated near the end of the Wright's Neck peninsula, and from which there is an extended view over Reed's Creek and Chester River, was built by Col. Thomas Wright about 1775. The disturbances of the time seriously affected the fortunes of Col. Thomas Wright. In addition to being commandant of a military regiment of Queen Anne's County in 1776 he held the following offices: Delegate to the Provincial Conventions of 1774–76: member of the Committee of Correspondence, 1774, and a signer of the Association of the Freemen of Maryland of 1775. At the death of Colonel Wright his son and namesake inherited the property and lived there until his death in 1835. He was succeeded as master of "Reed's Creek" by his sixth child and fourth son, Richard Alexander Wright. At the present time "Reed's Creek" is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wright, of Centerville, who are representatives of its first owners in Maryland history and in whose hands a revival of its old-time family characteristics may be expected.

BLOOMINGDALE

Patented 1665

A BEAUTIFUL tributary of the Chesapeake Bay which attracted many of the early settlers is the Wye River. After passing Bennett's Point, upon entering "The Wye," and the long and historical peninsula of the Bennett estate, this river separates and forms a "Y." The south prong, known as "Front Wye," and the north prong, known as "Back Wye," bound the north and south sides of Bordley's or Paca's Island. On the north prong are some noted estates, among which are "Wye," "Wye Island" and "Cheston-on-Wye." At the head of the northeast branch of "Back Wye" is situated one of the finest brick colonial residences in Queen Anne's County, "Bloomingdale." This property was orginally patented by Capt. Robert Morris under the name of "Mount Mill" by letters patent issued on June 7, 1665.

In 1684 the tract was acquired by Jacob Seth, who added to the property by purchase, making it two miles square. Jacob Seth occupied the property until his death in 1698, and by his will devised it to his son, John, with a provision that if John died without descen-

dants it should go to his son, Charles. John died before reaching maturity and the property was occupied by Charles until his death in 1737. Jacob Seth married, in 1676, Barbara Beckwith, a daughter of Capt. George Beckwith and Frances Harvey. They resided on a tract of land on the Patuxent River in St. Mary's County which had been granted to Nicholas Harvey, the father of Frances Beckwith. Nicholas Harvey came into the Province with Leonard Calvert in 1634. Charles Seth by will devised the property to his sons, John, James, Charles and Jacob. Jacob, by subsequent purchases, became the owner of the whole tract, and at his death it went to his oldest son and heir-at-law, Thomas Johnings Seth, who died about 1820 without descendants, and the property was sold by a trustee in chancery to Edward Harris, whose heirs, Mary and Sallie Harris, became the owners of this estate at his death and rechristened it "Bloomingdale." Sallie, the surviving sister, willed it to her cousin, Severn Teackle Wallis, and he to his nephew, who sold it to Hiram G. Dudley of Baltimore City, the present owner.

There are several very old buildings on the property of brick construction, notably the miller's house. The present residence was reconstructed in 1792, during the ownership of Thomas Johnings Seth. The mill on the property during the ownership of the Seths was known as "Seth's Mill," and later, after the estate passed from the hands of the Seth family, it has been known as the "Sallie Harris Mill."

Paca's Island was the home of Governor William Paca, a native of Harford, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and an eminent Maryland jurist, who died at "Wye Hall" in 1799. The two Governors of Maryland elected from Queen Anne's were Robert Wright, (12 November, 1806–6 May, 1809); and William Grason, (7 January, 1839–3 January, 1842), the latter being the first Maryland Chief Executive chosen by popular vote under the amended Constitution of 1838, in succession to Veazey. James Butcher, (6 May, 1809–9 June, 1809), is the third Queen Anne's countian in the list of Governors.

OLD PRATT HOUSE

NOW QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ALMSHOUSE

SITUATED about ten miles from Centerville, the county-seat of Queen Anne's County, and just beyond the village of Ruthsburg, is the "Old Pratt Mansion," now occupied as a county almshouse. The first colonist who owned the ground upon which this house stands was Christopher Cross Routh, who accumulated much personalty and a wide extent of landed property in his lifetime. In his will, dated February 17, 1775, which was made one year before his death, he named Henry Pratt, his son-in-law, the beneficiary of his estate.

Henry Pratt and his son, also Henry Pratt, added many acres to the Routh holdings; it was said that they could drive seven miles in the direction of Centerville without getting off their own land. The Pratts were very patriotic during the Revolution, and they contributed largely of their means to further the interest of the Continental Army. They also fitted out ships to trade with France during the War of 1812.

This house was built prior to the issuing of the Declaration of Independence. Over the front door are seen today thirteen stars, but

it is not known just when these stars were placed there. The house, from oral tradition, was some time in course of construction, but when it was completed a celebration was held which lasted three days and three nights. The guests came from Kent, Caroline, Talbot and Queen Anne's, and were entertained in the mansion house and by neighboring planters. Fox hunting, horse racing, dancing, feasting, and the whole round of rural pleasures were extended their guests by the Pratts. Coach driving with wild colts, as well as high-bred horses trained to harness, was a popular sport in those days, and was especially enjoyed by Henry Pratt.

The mansion house was exquisitely furnished. Mahogany, cut glass and silver were brought from England and much of it is now in existence in the county and can be traced as once gracing the "Old Pratt Mansion." Henry Pratt died in 1783, and his son, who succeeded to the property, lived until about 1809. The third Henry Pratt who owned the estate was a lavish spender and seemed to have missed inheriting his ancestors' ability to acquire and hold property. About 1832 the place passed from his hands and was purchased by the county, and has been used since as the county almshouse.

There had been erected in this house what is called a "sounding post"—a contrivance with a vacuum arrangement which carried the sound of a whisper made in the hall below to the bedroom of the owner. Before the last Henry Pratt vacated the property he declared that nobody else should have the advantage of this contrivance, so he pulled out his pistol and shot a bullet through the post and the bullet-hole can be seen in what remains of the post at the present time.

Ellen Pratt, daughter of the last owner, was born and married to Madison Brown in this house. She was the mother of Congressman John B. Brown, Judge Edwin H. Brown, Rev. Joel Brown and Mrs. James Bordley, wife of the late Dr. James Bordley, of Centerville.

Descendants of the original board of trustees of this county institution of Queen Anne's have served on the board, and the present trustees are James Brown, president; W. H. Gibson, vice-president; William McKenney, secretary and treasurer; C. P. Merrick, James T. Bright, Frank A. Emory, R. B. Carmichael, J. Frank Harper, Samuel A. Wallen and James E. Kirwan. Edwin H. Brown, Jr., is counsel, and William Jester, superintendent.

POPLAR GROVE BLOOMFIELD

"POPLAR GROVE," the homestead of the Emory family for the past five generations, is located in Spaniard's Neck, Queen Anne's County, on the northern side of Corsica River and Emory's Creek. The estate originally contained about 1,000 acres. Its northerly boundary was "Readbourne," the old Hollyday estate on Chester River. Just what year the "Poplar Grove" house was built is not known, but it must have been early in the eighteenth century.

There seems to have been three distinct branches of the Emory family in Queen Anne's County. The "Poplar Grove" or Spaniard's Neck branch; the Queenstown branch, and the East of Centerville branch. Each branch of this family has turned out prominent men. Of the East of Centerville branch came Judge D. C. Hopper Emory of Lutherville, Baltimore County, Arthur Emory, J. K. B. Emory, and W. H. Emory, commission merchants, Baltimore City, Arthur Emory was born at "The Hut," a farm near Centerville. The Queenstown Emorys owned and lived on the farm now owned by the heirs of Dr. Thomas Willson, which is situated adjacent to and is said to have included the "Hemsley Farm," owned by Hiram G. Dudley.

The remains of William James Emory rest in the old Emory

burying ground. Daniel Grant Emory, Dr. Richard Emory and the late Dr. Thomas Hall Emory of Harford County were descendants of this branch.

Many men of distinction came from the "Poplar Grove" branch of Emorys: Gen. Thomas Emory, an officer in the War of 1812, Col. John R. Emory, who served in the Florida Indian War under Gen. Joe Johnston; Frank Emory, of "Conquest"; Addison Emory, of "Ruth's Hollow"; Edward Bourke Emory, of "Poplar Grove"; John Emory, of "Ashland," and John Register Emory, of Washington.

Another estate associated with the Emory family and one of the most attractive old places in Queen Anne's is "Bloomfield," which is situated on the State Road between Centerville and Church Hill. The "Bloomfield" house was built by William Young Bourke not later than 1760. This Bourke married Eliza Anne Gray, and their daughter Anne married Richard Harrison but died without issue and the estate was inherited by Mary Bourke, who married Blanchard Emory, of "Poplar Grove," in 1852. Mrs. Emory, who raised a large family of children, was an authoress, and wrote "Colonial Families and Their Descendants." In 1893 the old estate was sold to Richard Earle Davidson, of Queenstown. "Bloomfield" is now the property of John H. Evans, a prominent citizen of Queen Anne's County.

MELFIELD

Antedating Revolution

THIS homestead is located two and a half miles from Centerville, the county-seat of Queen Anne's County, on Tilghman's Creek, overlooking the Chester and the Corsica rivers.

"Melfield" originally belonged to Judge James Tilghman of "The Hermitage." The house which stands today, shown in the picture, was begun prior to the Revolutionary War. Its architectural appearance supports a tradition that only one section was completed when the disturbed conditions in the province stopped the work. The first part erected was evidently intended for a library, and is of English brick. The walls are several feet in thickness and the doors have large brass locks bearing the British coat-of-arms.

"Melfield" became the property of the Earles through the wife of Judge Richard Tilghman Earle, Mary Tilghman, a daughter of Judge James Tilghman. This estate originally contained over 1,100 acres and included "Headlong Hall," a Tilghman farm of 365 acres, now owned by Mr. Clapp, of New York. This old home was one of a chain of places owned by Judge Earle. His summer home was

"Winton," which is situated directly on Chester River at the mouth of the Corsica River and has been in the Earle family for more than a century. By a deed recorded in the Land Records of Talbot County, dated July 21, 1666, Edward Lloyd, of "Wye House," conveyed "Winton" to his son-in-law, Henry Hawkins. In 1669 Henry Hawkins sold "Winton" to Nathaniel Evitt for 6,000 pounds of tobacco. Three years later Evitt sold "Winton" to Richard Tilghman, then high sheriff of the county, and it remained in the Tilghman family until the death of Judge James Tilghman and became the portion of his daughter Mary, who married Judge Richard Tilghman Earle. Richard Tilghman Earle, a grandson of Judge Earle, died in 1914, and "Winton" was sold the following year and was purchased by Stuart Olivier and Charles Morris Howard, of Baltimore City, Milton Campbell, of "The Anchorage," Talbot, and Swepson Earle, of Queen Anne's. The "Winton" house was modeled after the "White House" and was destroyed by fire a decade ago.

"Needwood," another place owned by Judge Earle, is situated about a mile from Centerville and was his winter home. After his death it became the home of James Tilghman Earle, who represented Queen Anne's in the Maryland Senate at the sessions of 1865–74. After Mr. Earle's death "Needwood" was purchased by the late William McKenny, of Queen Anne's County.

In 1812, when the British were reported coming up Chester River, Peregrine Tilghman moved his family from "Recovery," now owned by Thomas J. Keating, to "Melfield" for safety. He joined the Queenstown Company and was in the engagement at "Slippery Hill." Capt. James Tilghman was born while his mother, Harriett Tilghman, was at "Melfield."

Samuel Thomas Earle lived sixty-eight years at "Melfield," the place having been given him by his father, Judge Earle, when he was a young man. Until his death in 1904 he resided on the estate, where he raised a large family of children. His surviving children were Mrs. Mary Feddeman, Mrs. E. M. Forman and William Brundige Earle, of Queen Anne's County, and Dr. Samuel T. Earle, of Baltimore City. "Melfield" was then divided into two farms; the home place is owned by the widow of William B. Earle, Louisa Stubbs Earle, and the outer part, which is called "Chatfield," by Dr. Samuel T. Earle.

WORCESTER

1742

IT was not until 250 years after Columbus' fruitful voyage of 1492 that the struggling, though ever-increasing, population which at first clung to the watercourses and bays of the lower Eastern Shore in this territory had become sufficiently numerous and influential to demand and receive consideration from the Provincial Assembly. During the reign of George II, in the year 1742, when nearly all of Europe was then, as now, at war, we find that the Provincial Assembly, in acknowledged deference to the petition of certain inhabitants of our parent county, Somerset, serenely set aside of its woods, rivers, swamps, small lots of cleared land and ocean shore a new county and called it Worcester.

The boundaries of the present Worcester County were definitely fixed by the Act of 1742, and so remained, save for the boundary adjustment many years later with Virginia, until the Constitution framed by the Convention of 1867 took away the northern portion of Somerset and the western portion of Worcester to form Wicomico. After that diminution Worcester County remains with an area of 475 square miles. It extends from Mason and Dixon's Line, forming the southern boundary of Delaware, south to the State of Virginia, and fronts and bounds on the east upon the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of nearly fifty miles. The true location of the boundaries between Worcester County, Maryland, and Accomac County, Virginia, was for two centuries unsettled. The dispute between the States of Maryland and Virginia as to the interstate boundary was finally submitted to arbitration and determined in 1877 by Jeremiah S. Black, of Pennsylvania, and Charles J. Jenkins, of Georgia, arbitrators selected by the two States.

Probably the earliest settlements in what is now Worcester County were about 1658, and were made by pioneers from Accomac and also direct from England. These emigrants were later followed by fugitive

Acadians, (1755). The waterways naturally furnished the only convenient means of transportation in early times. The labor of clearing away dense woods preliminary to any farming, the fight against malaria, absence of markets, churches and schools retarded the early growth of the county. In 1790 the population was only 11,640, including nearly 4,000 negro slaves. During the next twenty-five years, to 1815, the population rose to 16,971.

In addition to Pocomoke City, Snow Hill, Berlin, Stockton, and Ocean City, which is the only town in Maryland built at the ocean's side, several other towns were in times past "erected" in Worcester County by legislative act, and of them no traces remain, if any such towns had in fact physical existence. Notable among these are "Newport," erected in 1744, two years after Snow Hill was incorporated, and "Baltimore Town." It is interesting to note that the March, 1666, term of Somerset Court ordered that the "Great Bridge" at Snow Hill be repaired. Snow Hill, the present county-seat, was then a village near which a band of friendly Indians, numbering about 120, lingered until 1756, refused inducements to leave, and what finally became of them is unknown. It was not until many years after the "Great Bridge" was repaired that the town of Snow Hill was incorporated.

"Newtown," now Pocomoke City, was then unknown. Col. William Stevens established a ferry about 1670 across the Pocomoke River where the bridge at Pocomoke City now is, and called the place "Stevens' Ferry." A warehouse for tobacco, then a legal tender in Maryland and other colonies, built of cypress logs, was established on "the hill," a short distance below "Stevens' Ferry," about the year 1700, and from that the hamlet below the ferry took its name of "Warehouse Landing." Later, as "Newtown," the village flourished until it soon outgrew Wagram, just across the Virginia line. "Newtown" also outgrew Rehoboth in Somerset County, eight miles down the Pocomoke River, a port of entry and a place of comparative importance when Baltimore City was young.

Rehoboth boasts the oldest Presbyterian church building in existence in America, and one of the oldest Episcopal churches. The year 1683 is notable, not alone to Worcester County but to the nation, because it was in that year that the first Presbyterian preacher

reached the colonies. The young missionary from Ireland, Francis Makemie, began that year his ministerial work at Snow Hill and in Somerset County. He established at Snow Hill, about 1690, what is generally believed to be the first Presbyterian church erected in America, and at about the same time a second church at Rehoboth. Soon he organized a third church, "Old Manokin," at Princess Anne. After an active and useful career, by no means free from difficulty, hardship and persecution, Makemie died, and was buried on the farm of his daughter, Anne Holden, on Holden's Creek, Accomac County, Virginia. For many years the place of his burial was unknown, his grave unmarked, but finally after persistent and careful examination of records, documents, etc., and the most painstaking, energetic effort, his burial place was accurately located. Thereupon a suitable monument was erected some eight or ten years ago to mark his grave, paid for by subscriptions given by the Presbyterians of the United States, who showed this long postponed and much deserved respect to the memory of their first minister.

One small, and otherwise comparatively unimportant, incident is of value, because it throws a vivid light on the relative size of the struggling settlements, and the bonds of friendship which united them. After the great Boston fire in 1760, Worcester County contributed, (as did all the other counties of the Province of Maryland), to the stricken New England city, her gift being £73 4s. 6d. Quite a generous contribution it was, when the resources of Worcester County in 1760 are considered. Great events were soon to follow this donation, significant as an expression of sympathy. Fourteen years afterward we find that the sum of £533 was raised in Worcester County to aid Massachusetts in her opposition to taxation by the British Parliament without representation. After the Revolutionary War actually began a great mass meeting was held on June 7, 1775, at Snow Hill and a set of resolutions adopted in which, among other things, it was pledged "That we will from time to time, as often as it shall be found necessary, contribute cheerfully for the support and relief of our brethren in Massachusetts, now actually experiencing the fullest extent of ministerial vengeance and tyranny, and groaning under the horrors of war in the defense of their and our common rights."

On July 26, 1775, about sixty of the foremost citizens of the county, (men whose names are still familiar, being perpetuated by many descendants now living in Worcester), met at Snow Hill and signed the Association of the Freemen of Maryland. Maryland, however, and particularly Worcester County, was by no means unanimous in favor of the war, and there were many "Tories" in Worcester loyal to the British Crown. So that the men who so boldly wrote their names on the roll of the Association of Freemen undoubtedly wrote their own death warrants had the colonies lost. The presence and pernicious activity of so many "Tories" in Worcester and Somerset Counties was a source of grim satisfaction to Governor Eden. He wrote, with some elation, that in February, 1777, General Smallwood, with 500 men and a company of artillery, had been sent to the lower peninsula to reduce the "Tories" to obedience. When Smallwood arrived the trouble was over. Nevertheless, many of the trouble-makers were arrested by him and hustled to Annapolis for trial, where it is unlikely that any too great deference or tenderness was shown them.

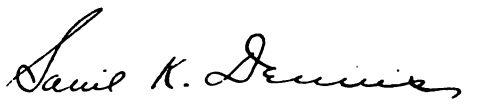
The Sinepuxent Battalion, with about 318 men, Capts. Matthew Purnell, William Purnell, E. Purnell, Thomas Purnell and Dale; the Snow Hill Battalion, with about 578 men, Capts. Spence, Stewart, Layfield, Handy, Walton, Patterson, Smyley, Parramore and William Richardson, were volunteers in the cause of independence organized in the county, and comprised about 13 per cent of the total white population. In addition many men enlisted from Worcester County in commands elsewhere. Col. Peter Chaille commanded the Tenth Battalion and Col. William Purnell the Twenty-fourth Battalion of the Maryland Militia authorized by the Convention of 1775. Worcester sent Samuel Handy, Peter Chaille, Smith Bishop and Josiah Mitchell, who was for many years county surveyor, as members of the Provincial Convention which framed the first Constitution for the State of Maryland, and held its sessions at Annapolis between August 14 and November 11, 1776. And as delegates to the State Convention of 1788, which ratified the Constitution of the United States, Worcester sent John Done, Peter Chaille, William Morris and James Martin.

Worcester County has much fast land and semi-waste land in the

long stretches of swamp which for many miles border the dark, deep reaches of the tortuous Pocomoke River and its tributaries, and make the river, with its coffee-colored waters, one of the loveliest streams in America. Again, the narrow sand spit that pens the waters of the shallow bay extending from Virginia to Delaware along the east coast of the county, and that in some miraculous way has sustained for years and still sustains the pounding of the ocean breakers on one side and the wash from the waters of the bay on the other, and that keeps the ocean and the bay apart, is barren. Worcester has valuable resources in its salt-water fisheries in the sheltered bay to the east known at various parts of its length as Isle of Wight, Sinepuxent and Chincoteague.

The county has all varieties of soils. Soils that will produce more wheat per acre than the best lands of the West, and also phenomenal yields of corn and vegetables, sometimes lie within gunshot of sandy "pine barrens" that scarcely repay the cost of clearing. Diversified farming, the raising of truck and fruits, improved methods of marketing and transportation, and good roads have wrought an agricultural miracle of recent years in the county.

Worcester has been well and honestly governed, and the people of the county have enjoyed, among the first in Maryland, the best fruits of a liberal free school system. Peace, security of personal and property rights, good order, sufficient for all the necessaries of life and many, (though not too many), of its luxuries have almost without intermission blessed the people and been the county's portion. If the words of Voltaire be true, that "history is little else than a picture of human crimes and misfortunes," then Worcester is happily without a history.



BEVERLY

PATENTED 1669

"BEVERLY," the old colonial homestead of the Dennis family, is situated on the east bank of the Pocomoke River, about eight miles from its mouth, in Worcester County, on a tract of land patented in 1669 under the name of "Thrum-Capped" to Donnoch Dennis, who was the first settler of the name in Maryland.

Donnoch Dennis lived on Dividing Creek in Somerset County, on "Dennis First and Second Purchases," and his son John inherited the "Beverly" or "Thrum-Capped" tract and lived there. He built the first dwelling house on the tract, which was of brick.

The present house stood on a tract which, until recently subdivided, consisted of 1,700 acres. The present house was commenced in 1774 by Littleton Dennis, a lawyer, and he, dying in the same year, it was completed by his widow, Susanna (Upshur) Dennis, both of whom, with many others of their family, are buried in the family burying ground near the house.

The house is of the large, old English style of brick and faces east. The porch to the side facing the Pocomoke River is of wrought

iron, fashioned by hand, and the circle in the arch was formerly the receptacle for a large iron lamp, which served as a beacon light for miles up and down the Pocomoke River, which in the absence of good roads, furnished then the only easy means of communication.

The first floor rooms are all wainscoted, in whole or in part, with panels beautifully designed, and all hand work, and in each room, where was originally a fireplace, there are on each side of the latter closets in the wall, presumably to hold firewood.

The walls are very thick, allowing room for deep window seats, and the framing and timbers, which are still perfectly solid, were hewed out. The boards used in construction were sawed out from the log by hand.

The property has never been out of the Dennis family, but has passed down through successive generations by will or inheritance from the original patentee.

LIVING ROOM AT BEVERLY

TIMMONS MANSION

1812

ALTHOUGH not built in colonial days, the Timmons House in Snow Hill, recently torn down, was for a century an architectural landmark of Snow Hill. The original part was built of hewn logs by Timothy Irons, and its first site was at the southerly end of Market Street. Purchased a quarter of a century later from Irons by Dr. Thomas Spence, it was moved to a new site, an addition built on and the colonial type of porches constructed. Dr. Spence at that time owned nearly all the land from Washington Street to Purnell's Mill Pond, on the Berlin road. He sold the house to Sheriff Samuel Harper, and later owners were Edward Bowen and John F. Purnell. About 1860 it became the home of Capt. William E. Timmons, then a political leader in Worcester, who occupied it until his death a few years ago.

The demolition of this notable structure of Snow Hill, in the interests of modern progress, caused a sentimental pang to the residents and descendants of former residents who revered the building for its long and intimate connection with local and family history.

INGLESIDE

Built 1755

FROM the builder of this house, Robert Morris, Register of Wills of Worcester County, who erected it in 1755, its ownership passed to Judge William Whittington, the maternal grandfather of United States Senator John Walter Smith. Judge Whittington died in 1827, and was buried on the "Ingleside" place. The property was later occupied by his son-in-law, Judge William Tingle, for some years in the middle period of the last century. The ballroom of the mansion is now used as a kitchen, the original kitchen having been a semi-detached building. "Ingleside" is owned by Mrs. Eugene Riggin, of Los Angeles, California.

Judge Whittington succeeded John Done, of Somerset, as Chief Justice of the Fourth District of Maryland in 1799, Judge Done, appointed under the Judiciary Act of 1790, having been promoted to the General Court. The Fourth District, (there being five in the State), included Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester Counties—all the Eastern Shore south of the Choptank. Judge Whittington served a little less than two years, when his tenure was ended by the Act of

1801, which likewise divided the Eastern Shore into two districts, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot being the Second.

William Polk, of Somerset, was appointed in Judge Whittington's stead, for party reasons. By Luther Martin, Whittington sued Polk at the only assize of novel disseisin known to the Maryland law reports for "having disseised him of his freehold, with its appurtenances," in the office of Chief Justice of the County Courts of the Fourth District, and the General Court, upon a jury's special verdict, found that when Whittington qualified "a right vested in him to hold office until his death or conviction in a court of law of misbehavior"; and that the repealing Act of 1801 in depriving him of his office was "an infraction of his right and does not accord with sound legislation." However, the General Court held that the Act was not repugnant to the State Constitution, and was within the power of the Legislature; and nonsuited Whittington because the writ of assize of novel disseisin, (a Clarendon statute of Henry II), the use of which in Elizabethan England in a certain action for the recovery of land had been set up as a precedent by Martin and Robert Goodloe Harper, had never been extended to Maryland, and could not be availed of in the case at bar. Polk's counsel were Thomas James Bullitt, Gustavus Scott and Josiah Bayley.

The Chief Justices of the County Courts at first sat with two lay associates in each county, but under a further reorganization of the county courts by the Act of 1804, Polk, Done and James B. Robins, of Worcester, became the Fourth District bench. Judge Whittington returned to it as an Associate Justice in 1812, again succeeding Done, promoted to Chief Justice on the death of Polk.

Judge Whittington, noted among the early judges of Maryland for his mental attainments and judicial character, continued on the bench until his death, in 1827, when his place was taken by his son-in-law, Judge Tingle. A quarter of a century later all the appointive judges were legislated out of office by the Constitution of 1851, which changed the circuits and made judgeships elective. Judge Tingle returned to the practice of law at Snow Hill, and died in 1864.

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH

FIRST CHURCH BUILT 1734

IN following the instructions given to the freeholders of what was then Somerset County in the Act of Assembly of 1692, Chapter 2, entitled "An Act for the Service of Almighty God and the Establishment of the Protestant Religion within this Province," Mathew Scarborough, William Round, John Francklin, Thomas Painter, Thomas Selby, and Edward Hammond were selected to serve as vestrymen of Snow Hill Parish until the Monday after Easter of the following year.

The Justices of the County Court, with the "principal freeholders" of the county, had, previous to the selection of the vestrymen, divided Somerset County into four parishes. The instructions regarding the laying out and dividing the several counties under this act includes the following; "And the same districts and Parishes the said Justices shall cause to be laid out by meets and bounds and fair certificates of each parish, with the most evident and demonstrable Bounds of the same, returned to the next County Court to be held for the said County which the Justices at their County Courts as

aforesaid shall cause the Clerk of the said County to enter the said certificate upon the Record and draw a fair copy thereof, affixing his name and the Seal of the said County thereunto, and transmit the same with all convenient speed to the Governor and Council of this Province to be kept on record in the Council Books."

It was found that of the four parishes laid out in Somerset County, the most easterly one, Snow Hill, was co-extensive with two subdivisions of the county, namely, Bogettenorten and Mattapany Hundreds, lying east of the Pocomoke River and bordering upon the Atlantic Ocean.

The first minister who preached in the parish according to the Allen MSS. was Rev. John White, in 1698. In 1703 Rev. Robert Keith preached there, and in 1708 Rev. Alexander Adams was in charge. It was during his pastorate that the name was changed, in 1710, to All Hallows. Rev. Charles Wilkinson began to preach in the parish in 1711, but owing to the unsettled conditions no minister afterward preached in the parish until 1728, when Rev. Thomas Fletcher began his thirteen years of faithful service as rector. Rev. Patrick Glasgow followed, serving eleven years, and during his pastorate, in 1742, All Hallows found itself in Worcester County—the county at its erection being co-extensive with the bounds of old "Snow Hill Parish." The first church was built in 1734, during Rev. Mr. Fletcher's time. In 1754, Rev. John Rosse began his pastoral duties, which continued until the last part of 1775. On January 28, 1776, Rev. Edward Gantt began to preach there.

OLD FURNACE

THROUGH the influence of the Spence family in 1828 the Maryland Iron Company was formed, and acquired about 5,000 acres of land, along Nassawango Creek, which included a large deposit of bog ore, rich in iron, that curiously enough lined the bed of the creek in considerable quantity. It represented the deposit of mineral substance left by springs that had oozed from the depths of the earth through the bog and cypress roots for untold ages to feed Nassawango Creek. The company was formed to mine and reduce this ore. The adjacent pine forests furnished charcoal to be used in the process. A large furnace was constructed and many houses for employees were built on a site about five miles from Snow Hill. Much money and many high hopes were lost after about seven years unprofitable operation. The stack of the "Old Furnace" is all that now remains of the mills, and around about it and its environs is woven the story of that remarkable novel, "The Entailed Hat," written by the late George Alfred Townsend, himself a native of Worcester County.

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

BUILT 1756

FOR nearly seventy years St. Martin's Church, near the village of Showell in Worcester County, was the parish church of Worcester Parish. The parish was erected from part of Snow Hill, now All Hallows Parish, in 1744. The present brick building was erected in 1756 on the site of its less pretentious predecessor under the patronage, it is said, of a Queen of England, who presented the parish with a silver service. Part of this silver is now used in St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Berlin and the rest of it in the Episcopal church at Millsboro, Delaware, which town lies a few miles to the north of St. Martin's.

The vestry of the parish built Prince George's Chapel at Selbyville in the early days, and when the Maryland-Delaware boundary line was run by Mason and Dixon in 1763 and relocated to include that part of Worcester County south of the Indian River it divided Worcester Parish, placing Prince George's Parish in Delaware. It was at that time that the silver service of St. Martin's was divided.

The vestries in those days, when state and church were united and, under the Proprietary government of the Calverts subject to the

Crown of England, had magisterial authority and laid a tax on the settlers for the maintenance of the Church of England in Maryland. The tax was paid in tobacco.

Five acres of land were laid out for a cemetery around St. Martin's and many of the ancestors of the present generation are buried there. The cemetery is now covered by a jungle of bushes and briers. There is much valuable history in the records of the parish associated with this old church and its congregation. The names of the first pew-holders are still found in the records, together with much interesting historical information of the families and "doings" of olden times.

Following the English custom, several of the early rectors were buried under the chancel of the church. This has given rise to the legends of ghosts being seen about the old edifice. But the brave pioneers of that part of the Eastern Shore sleep too soundly to play pranks.

Old Worcester Parish included the upper part of Worcester County and within its bounds are Ocean City, Bishopville, Berlin, Libertytown, Whaleyville and Friendship.

INTERIOR ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH

BURLEY COTTAGE

Built 1830

IN the town of Berlin within a mile of the birthplace of Commodore Stephen Decatur is "Burley Cottage," which was built by Capt. John Selby Purnell about 1830. This place probably takes its name from "Burley," granted to Colonel Stevens in 1677, together with many tracts in this section of the Peninsula. From the description, it is likely that the present town of Berlin covers a part of this grant.

In "The Days of Makemie," an interesting account is given of a visit in 1684 to inspect these estates: "Sailing on up the eastern fork of the bay next morning and passing along the tract of land called 'Goshen,' patented by Mr. Makemie's friend, Colonel Jenkins, we see a little town of the aborigines, their canoes strewing the banks. A larger cabin indicates the Palace of Majesty, and, steering our course nearer, we see Queen Weocomoconus sitting in State at the door and her son, Kunsonum, at her side with the plumes of the seagull in his hair." After trading with the Indians, with whom they seemed to be on friendly terms, one "Waspossonn" acted as guide dur-

ing the balance of the expedition. Continuing, the writer says: "Mr. Ambrose White had joined us, coming from his estate called 'Happy Entrance,' north of St. Martin's River. Together we went on to 'Kelsey Hill'—another of Mr. Steven's tracts—thence on a mile farther to his land called 'Burley,' of three hundred acres, granted him in 1677. 'Coyes' Folly,' belonging to Mr. Wale, lies to the north, and 'Mount Pleasant' between the two. On the 'Burley' tract a gentle, quiet hill, covered with venerable oaks and gemmed with wild flowers, offered a quiet resting place for our midday repast."

"Burley Cottage" is a most attractive home, and is conspicuous for the luxurious growth of English ivy that covers the brick walls and which can only be kept in bounds by constant trimming. Back of the house there was originally a garden with formal box hedges which have grown to a most unusual size. Captain Purnell was the owner of much landed property in Worcester County. He was a highly educated man, with cultured tastes and most distinguished manners. He married Margaret Campbell Henry, daughter of Francis Jenkins Henry, who was a brother of John Henry, of Dorchester County, who was successively member of the Continental Congress, United States Senator and finally Governor of Maryland, 1797–1798. In addition to the large landed estate inherited by Captain Purnell his wife brought him "Buckland." This was a large tract of land on the St. Martin's River, and at that time had a fine house and handsome garden running down to the river. This is the same tract that was devised by John Henry to his son John upon his death in 1717. It was here that Captain Purnell passed his early married life, moving to "Burley Cottage" upon its completion, where he lived the remainder of his days. Upon his death the various large estates passed to his sons—"Buckland" to the heirs of his son, John Henry, "Wallops Neck" to his son, Francis Jenkins, and "Simperton" to his son, James Robins; "Burley Cottage" being devised with other property to his daughter, Nancy Purnell. Upon her death and the division of her estate it was sold and is now owned by Henry Purnell, grandson of the builder. The various large tracts inherited by his sons have now been sub-divided or broken up by the process of time except "Wallops Neck" which is still held as devised to Francis Jenkins Purnell, by his heirs.

DECATUR BIRTHPLACE

NEAR BERLIN

AMONG the historical houses of Worcester is the unpretentious birthplace of one of Maryland's most distinguished sons, Stephen Decatur. Here on the 5th of January, 1779, was born that hero of the early American Navy. The old house is in the neighborhood of Berlin, a thriving town of northern Worcester County. For over a century it has withstood the east winds that have swept in from the Atlantic, over whose restless bosom Decatur sailed and fought his way to everlasting fame.

Decatur's grandfather was born in France and went to Rhode Island, married and established his home at Newport, where Decatur's father, Stephen Decatur, the elder, was born in 1751. In Philadelphia this Stephen met a Miss Pine, the daughter of an Irishman, whom he married and they made their home there. In writing of Decatur, John W. Staton, of Snow Hill, says:

"His nature combined the characteristics of the French and Irish and they were manifested in his fascinating personality and gallant bravery in after life. It was in the late spring of 1778 that Stephen Decatur, senior, brought his young wife from Philadelphia to Worces-

ter County and took this unpretentious house, where Stephen was born the following January. The theory seems to be reasonably sound that it was the desire of the elder Decatur to have the prospective mother removed far from the excitement and danger incident to the occupation of Philadelphia at that time by the British troops under Lord Howe; that the country near Philadelphia was in the zone of danger and great excitement, and that the lower part of the Eastern Shore Peninsula offered the haven of peace and quiet that they sought. The occupancy of the house, which then belonged to Isaac Murray, was temporary only and for a definite purpose, and when that purpose was fulfilled by the birth of the son who was destined to shed such glory on his name, and the British troops had evacuated Philadelphia, the parents returned there with their boy when he was three months old. There his early days were spent and at the University of Pennsylvania he received the training and pursued the studies which made him a man of culture and education as well as a man of brilliant daring and courage. The fact remains, however, that to Worcester was given the honor of being the deliberately selected birthplace of a most distinguished citizen."

Decatur entered the service of the American Navy as a midshipman on the frigate United States at the age of nineteen in 1798, under Commodore Barry. He was soon promoted to the rank of lieutenant. In 1801, as first lieutenant of the frigate Essex, he went to the Mediterranean with Commodore Dale's squadron to protect American merchantmen against the Barbary pirates. For bravery at Tripoli he was promoted to captain in 1804, at the age of twenty-five, then the highest rank in the Navy. Later commands gave him the courtesy titles of post-captain and commodore, and in 1816 he was made one of the commissioners of the American Navy.

Commodore Decatur married Miss Wheeler of Norfolk.

He was mortally wounded on March 22, 1820, in a duel with Commodore Barron at Bladensburg. Barron, court-martialed in 1808 for surrendering the Chesapeake and afterward never given a sea command, challenged Decatur, who had sat on the court-martial. Taken to his home in Washington, Decatur died a few hours after the duel and was buried in St. Peter's Churchyard, Philadelphia, where his grave is marked by a handsome monument.

SINEPUXENT INLET

A View of the Atlantic Ocean

SINEPUXENT Bay, a long and narrow body of water on the eastern side of Worcester County, is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by Assateague Island and the North Beach. This inlet was the entrance from the ocean into the bay. The remains of a wreck may still be seen in the sand. A boat is said to have grounded while passing through the inlet, which, when the channel was thus choked, rapidly closed. Of the three inlets known to have been used by some of the foreign and by the large coastwise shipping in days gone by, only the most southerly, Chincoteague, is now open and in use.

When in March, 1634, Lord Baltimore's colonists sailed up the Potomac on the Ark and the Dove and settled at St. Mary's, they doubtless cared little for their 120 odd miles of distant seacoast along the Atlantic. Their immediate work lay closer by, and their settlement grew first, naturally, in the Chesapeake Bay region. After the middle of the century, when they turned their faces east and began in earnest to occupy and to govern the seaside, they were opposed by shrewd men with plans of their own. All the diplomacy of Governor

Calvert and the energy of Col. William Stevens, of Somerset County, and their successors have been able to preserve of this large ocean frontier from stranger claimants is the fifty miles of beach land, without a deep harbor, comprising the easterly boundary of Worcester County.

The early history of this little strip of Maryland's seacoast, picturesque and full of ancient interest, has never been fully written and much of it is now, no doubt, lost in the mists.

"Who, first among Europeans, set foot upon the island beaches of the Maryland coast we do not know. The native inhabitant still clings to the tradition that it was most likely some sailor on that shipwrecked Spanish vessel which gave to the island of Chincoteague her famous wild ponies; and still believes that the master genius of the Jamestown settlement, that indefatigable navigator, Capt. John Smith, must have fully explored this coast" says Harry F. Covington in writing of the visit in 1524 of Verrazzano to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

While acting as navigator for King Francis I of France, this Italian, in the "Dauphine" with a crew of fifty men, sailed along the Worcester coast. In making his report of the voyage he wrote that he came "to another land, which appeared much more beautiful and full of the largest forests." To this land he gave the name of Arcadia and in 1670 Augustine Herman made a map for Lord Baltimore in consideration of a manorial grant, (Bohemia Manor in Cecil County), and located Arcadia on this map where Worcester County now is.

CAROLINE COUNTY

1773

ORIGINALLY all the territory included in Caroline County lay within the bounds of Kent and Dorchester. Talbot later had jurisdiction over the area between the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek for forty-five years, when this section was made part of Queen Anne's. From the time of the first separation of the region below the Choptank into two counties Dorchester extended along the south side of the river from the Chesapeake Bay to its headwaters. The southeastern corner of Caroline as a part of the northeastern corner of Dorchester figured in the claim of Somerset that "Nantecoke River on the north" carried its upper boundary to the North-West Fork, (Marshy Hope Creek), as the "main branch" of the river, a dispute terminated in 1684 by the fixing of the true location of the "main branch" of the Nanticoke.

Surveys began on Kent Island in 1640, on Miles River in 1658, and in bayside Dorchester in 1659, and a fourth tide of colonization was working up the Peninsula from Accomac; but pioneers penetrated slowly to the upper Choptank, the Tuckahoe and North-West Fork. Twenty-nine years had elapsed from the coming of Calvert's colonists to St. Mary's, and thirty-four from the arrival of Claiborne's traders on Kent Island, before the Caroline area knew compass and chain. The first survey within its limits was made on March 4, 1663, for Thomas Skillington—"Skillington's Right," 300 acres, "on the south side Choptank River above the second turning." This was speedily followed by surveys on Hunting Creek and Fowling Creek and on up the river. By December, 1665, grants far up the northeast branch were being made, and the original patent names for tracts in this locality appear frequently in the "Summersett" and Dorchester Rent Roll. "Cedar Point," the site of the first county-seat, is among them; surveyed August 5, 1665, for John Edmondson. Even earlier

than this, surveys were being made in the "Forrest of Choptank," north of the river, and on the east side of the Tuckahoe, designated as "the main branch of the Choptank." Not until a long period afterward, however, did settlers venture far to the eastward of the Choptank. Some surveys were made on Marshy Hope in the last quarter of the seventeenth century and grants within the original eastern limits of Dorchester were found to be in Delaware when the Penns at last succeeded in wresting forty-one per cent of the peninsula between the Chesapeake and the Delaware Bays from the Calverts. Entries occur in the rent roll: "This land deny'd, being supposed to be in the province of Pensilvania," evidently an echo of Penn's letters to holders of Maryland grants.

Whether Dorchester County was created at the same time as Somerset, (August, 1666), or a few months before Lord Baltimore, (July, 1669), projected Durham County to include the territory along the Delaware to the northern charter limits of his Province, cannot be certainly known because of the failure so far to find any definite and authentic record of the first existence of Dorchester, other than a writ to its sheriff. The fact that Somerset was in express terms placed south of the Nanticoke, when "that part of the province newly seated called the Eastern Shore" had been as expressly bounded on the north by the Choptank River, was pointed out to Mr. Skirven, who, after carefully consulting many original sources of Maryland history relating to this section, came to the conclusion that "The Eastern Shore" was divided into these two counties in the same year, if not on the same day. To this opinion I strongly incline. The settlements on the western waterfront of Dorchester had been growing for six years; the military force of the Colony was brought against the Nanticoke Indians when their opposition to the extension of settlements into the interior between the two great rivers that enclosed the Dorchester territory became too formidable for the local administration; and the Proprietary, by the erection of the temporary Durham and Worcester Counties of 1669 and 1672 completed his fruitless efforts to take full advantage of his charter with its fateful *hactenus inculta* clause. By buying the "claim" of the Duke of York, (James II), Penn was enabled to finally add the "three lower counties upon Delaware" to Pennsylvania. The result of the

long controversy was the establishment of the eastern line of Dorchester by Mason and Dixon.

A century after the peopling of the river and creek fronts of Great Choptank Hundred of Dorchester and the Tuckahoe territory, the inhabitants urged the erection of a new county. Remote from Cambridge and Queenstown, they sought a "seat of justice" on the upper Choptank. At November Session, 1773, two of Dorchester's Delegates were William Richardson and Thomas White. Richardson brought in a bill which the Assembly passed, carving Caroline out of Dorchester and Queen Anne's, and providing for its organization in the succeeding March. The county was named after Lady Caroline Eden, wife of the last Colonial Governor, and sister of the sixth Lord Baltimore, the then Proprietary. The act prescribed that the public business should be conducted at "Melvin's Warehouse," (on the Choptank just above Denton), until a court house and prison could be constructed at "Pig Point," where the county-seat was to be then located and known as "Eden-Town." The naming of Caroline and Eden Streets in the City of Baltimore was a like compliment to Governor and Lady Eden.

The name of Lady Caroline Calvert is perpetuated, but "Eden-Town" is hardly recognizable in Denton. Local self-government in Caroline concerned itself for a quarter of a century with a county-seat fight. In March, 1779, the "seat of justice" was removed to "Choptank Bridge" by the Assembly, which in the succeeding November, spurred by indignant remonstrants, hastily enacted a "suspension" of the law for seven years. In 1785 the Assembly repealed the county-seat provision of 1773, referring to "Eden-Town" as "Edenton," and named Joseph Richardson, Jr., William Whitely, John White, Philemon Downes and David Robinson commissioners to erect public buildings at "Melville's Warehouse," the county-seat thus established to be known "forever hereafter" as "Perrysburgh." The next year this act, too, was "suspended," and petitions favoring "Choptank Bridge" and a site at the "center of the county" referred to the following Assembly. Finally, in 1790, this war of petitions was ended by a referendum, and the Assembly passed "An Act for the removal of the seat of justice from Melville's Warehouse to Pig Point," and the county-seat was named Denton. William Richardson, Zabdiel Potter,

FRAZIER'S FLATS HOUSE

Antedating Revolution

WHEN "Skillington's Right" was surveyed in 1663, and "Richardson's Folly," 1,400 acres, in 1667 for John Edmondson, they were "reputed to be in Talbot"; and John Richardson, later taking up "Willenbrough," 982 acres, surveyed November 14, 1678, invoked the aid of the Colonial Land Office to straighten out a tangle of boundaries. A tax return for Great Choptank Hundred of Caroline County in 1782 assessed 1,394 acres of the tracts named "Skillington's Right," "Richardson's Folly," "Barnett's Purchase," "Plain Dealing," and "Sharp's Cost," to William Frazier. The area fronting on the Great Choptank River between Skillington's and Edmondson's Creeks has long been known as "Frazier's Neck." Dover Bridge, the sole one across the river from the Chesapeake Bay to Denton, is a short distance above Edmondson's Creek.

Since the time of Capt. William Frazier, the plantation upon which this house stands has been called "Frazier's Flats." A colony of Hollanders was established on the property two decades ago and named "Wilhelmina," after the Dutch Queen. The plantation is now divided into eight farms, the one upon which the house is located being owned by George W. Lankford. The house, the finest specimen of colonial architecture extant on the upper Choptank, is traditionally said to be one of eight pretentious brick dwellings of contemporary construction in this region. Another, (one of four that have been destroyed by fire), stood on "Poplar Grove," on the lower side of Skillington's Creek, the home of Capt. Charles S. Carmine, father of Capt. G. Creighton Carmine, U. S. Coast Guard, and of Mrs. B. Washington Wright, the present owner of "Poplar Grove" homestead. A third is the "Jamaica Point" house, on the opposite side of the Choptank in Talbot, and a fourth the "Warwick Fort Manor" house at the mouth of Warwick River—Secretary's Creek—in Dorchester. Much of the original furniture of the "Frazier's Flats" house, remaining in it until a generation ago, was made in Drury Lane, London.

Capt. William Frazier came from Talbot, and was a militia officer of the Revolution. He figured largely in Caroline affairs after taking up his residence east of the Choptank; was a Justice of the Caroline County Court for some years prior to 1790; long in the commission of the peace, and died in 1808. He was a leader in organizing Methodist societies in lower Caroline, and the second house of Methodist worship in the county was "Frazier's Chapel," said by Capt. Charles W. Wright to have been located on the site of the town of Preston, and to have been the forerunner of Bethesda congregation, out of which grew Preston M. E. Church. The Bethesda records are continuous from 1797. An intimate friend of Francis Asbury, the greatest of Methodist itinerants in his journeyings along the Atlantic seaboard was often the guest of Captain Frazier. "Dover Ferry," across the Choptank, named from the old town of "Dover" on the Talbot side, joined the road from Easton with that leading from the eastern Choptank bank to lower Delaware, and this road ran across the front of the Frazier plantation, the house standing a mile from the entrance gate. Dover Bridge is some distance above the old ferry. Jesse Lee, traveling with

Asbury in May, 1799, from Easton, over "Dover Ferry," speaks of their spending the night at William Frazier's:

> This place was once a home for me when I rode this circuit, almost fourteen years ago. I was truly thankful to the Lord for bringing me here once more.

Asbury's journal of the same date says "we held meeting in his [Frazier's] dwelling house," and further records:

> May, 1801—We had a long ride [from Cambridge] to William Frazier's, through dust and excessive heat. It was hard to leave loving souls, so we tarried until morning.
>
> April, 1805—We came to brother Frazier's. The fierceness of the wind made Choptank impassable; we had to rest awhile, and need had I, being sore with hard service.
>
> March, 1806—I stay at Captain Frazier's, Caroline County. My hoarseness is afflictive, but my soul is filled with God. . . . I only exhorted a little at Frazier's Chapel.
>
> May, 1807—At Easton we met Joseph Everett, who conducted us to William Frazier's to dine.
>
> April, 1913—Rode 15 miles to preach in Frazier's Chapel.

Capt. William H. Smith and Mrs. Smith, parents of H. Dimmock Smith, of Baltimore, lived at "Frazier's Flats" for about 25 years from 1859, the property having been left Mrs. Smith, (Miss Henrietta Maria Frazier Dimmock), by her great aunt, the widow of Captain Frazier, after whom she was named. Mrs. Smith was a daughter of Capt. Charles Dimmock, of Richmond, Virginia, an officer of the old army, and a West Pointer, who went into the Confederacy with his State. Captain Smith, a civil engineer, built the former Dover Bridge, and was later right-of-way agent of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between the Susquehanna and the Schuylkill.

MURRAY'S MILL

Built 1681

As soon as a community of settlers had been formed in early Maryland, a grist mill made its appearance, and these were the first manufacturing plants of the Colony. The pioneers could make or import their clothing and furniture, and grow and prepare for the table many food products upon their land holdings, but an indispensable adjunct of every settlement was the old-time grist mill, on the bank of a stream which furnished power to turn its wheel. These mills were geographical landmarks that still survive, in many cases, in place-names. For instance, the nomenclature of Worcester County's old election districts was taken from its mills, and these in all parts of the Eastern Shore have an interesting history.

The first mention of a mill at the site of the present Linchester is found in the Dorchester Rent Roll, where a survey of May 20, 1682, for Thomas Pattison, is described as being on Hunting Creek, "above the mill-dam." Until 1881, Linchester was known as "Upper Hunting Creek," and the "Upper Hunting Creek Mill" for 200 years had been an important point in that territory. Both sides of the

creek were settled at an early period. Before the Revolution the mill became the property of Col. James Murray, upon whose plantation were 70 persons. In May, 1779, the Council of Safety at Annapolis was assured that flour, then greatly needed for the Maryland troops with the Continental Army, could be had "at the head of Hunting Creek," from Murray's Mill. About 1800 the mill was rebuilt by Wright and Corkran, and a large portion of the old structure still stands, although the interior has been remodeled for the introduction of modern roller-process machinery, and steam power provided as an auxiliary to that of water; but the huge undershot wheel is as ready as ever to perform its duty whenever there is a "head" of water.

The southern boundary of Caroline County in the Act of 1773 was fixed by this mill, among other landmarks:

> Beginning at a point on the north side of the mouth of Hunting Creek in Dorchester County, and from thence running up and with the said creek to the main road at James Murray's Mill; thence with that road by Saint Mary's White-Chapel Parish Church to the North-West Fork Bridge; thence with the main road (that leads to Cannon's Ferry) to Nanticoke River to and with the exterior limits of the aforesaid County of Dorchester to the exterior limits of Queen Anne's County, [etc.]

The Delaware boundary was reached at Johnson's Cross Roads, before the new county line extended to the Nanticoke River.

St. Mary's White-Chapel Church had been built in 1755, the parish, almost co-extensive with the later Caroline County, having been taken from Great Choptank Parish in 1725, the parish church at Cambridge being inaccessible to the upper part of Dorchester. After 1776 the church fell into disuse, and about 1812 was torn down.

James Murray was assessed with 2,551 acres of land in Caroline County in 1782, the land names being "Mischance," "The Plains," "Point Ridge," "Summers' Ridge," "Taylor's Kindness," (surveyed 16th June, 1674, for John Edmondson "on the south side Great Choptank River in Hunting Creek"); "Andrews' Desire," (surveyed 5th January, 1718, for Richard Andrews, "in the woods on the north side a branch of Hunting Creek"); "Harry's Valley," "Joseph's Valley," "Addition to David's Venture," "Square Chance," "Willis's Lot," "Bank of Pleasure," "Connaway's Beginning," "Murray's Prevention," "David's First Venture," "Murray's Adventure," "Nehemiah's Venture."

POTTER MANSION

Built 1808

ZABDIEL POTTER, a sea captain from Rhode Island, and a scion of the noted colonial family of that name in New England, came up the Choptank before the middle of the eighteenth century, and made his home in the vicinity where "Coquericus Creek," known only to this generation by its appearance on the records, entered the river. "Coquericus Fields," of 600 acres, was surveyed June 16, 1673, for Thomas Phillips, and "Coquericus Creek" became "Phillips' Creek." Later surveys gave "Lloyd's Hill Improved" and "Lloyd's Grove" to the Potter holdings, these three tracts being owned in 1782 by Dr. Zabdiel Potter.

The original settler built a small brick house on the knoll overlooking the river 160 or more years ago, and made "Potter's Landing" a point of commercial importance on the upper river. In those days vessels sailed directly to British ports with tobacco, the colonial crop, from the northeast branch of the Choptank, and brought back cargoes of the many things the colonists had to import. Capt. Zabdiel Potter commanded one of these vessels, and, in 1760, "being bound

on a voyage to sea," with its attending uncertainties, he made a will, which was probated in 1761.

Two sons survived him, Dr. Zabdiel Potter and Nathaniel Potter. Both were especially active during the Revolution, and Nathaniel served in the Maryland Conventions. Nathaniel, who never married, died in 1783, and Dr. Zabdiel Potter ten years later. One son of the latter, born in the original home, became Dr. Nathaniel Potter, a founder of the School of Medicine of the University of Maryland, and a Baltimore practitioner and teacher of widespread fame. William Potter, the second son, who built the "Potter Mansion," died in 1847, and is buried near the house, where his wife, a daughter of Col. William Richardson, also lies. He became a brigadier-general of the Maryland Militia, after long service in lower ranks; was three times a member of the Governor's Council, and its "first-named" in 1816 and 1831, ranking next to the Governor in the State administration; and was repeatedly elected to the Legislature.

General Potter left one son, Zabdiel Webb Potter, who died in Cecil in 1855. While none of the Potter name are now in Caroline, General Potter has a number of descendants in Baltimore City and elsewhere in the State. Dr. Walter S. Turpin, of Church Hill, Queen Anne's County, married Ann Webb Richardson Potter, and after her death married her sister, Maria C. Potter, both daughters of General Potter. Commander Walter S. Turpin, U.S. Navy, is his great-grandson, and among other descendants in Queen Anne's is Mrs. J. Spencer Wright, (formerly Miss Annie W. R. Turpin), a granddaughter. The late William S. Potter, of Baltimore City, was General Potter's grandson, and the only son of Zabdiel Webb Potter.

After the death of General Potter, the property was bought by Col. Arthur John Willis, who lived there until his death in 1889. Colonel Willis maintained the social traditions of the old homestead, and the standing of "Potter's Landing" as the chief business center of Caroline County. It had been called "Potter's Town" earlier in the century, and was the leading shipping point of Caroline County from the first Zabdiel Potter's time, until after the Civil War. Both General Potter and Colonel Willis kept lines of sailing vessels in the Baltimore trade, and until the late nineties, the river was the one route of communication of central and lower Caroline with the State's

metropolis. Colonel Willis was an active and influential Union man during the Civil War, initiated the raising of the First Eastern Shore Regiment, Maryland Volunteers, four companies of which were recruited at "Potter's Landing"; represented the United States abroad at a critical period of the war, and served in the field during the 1863 campaign. He was elected to the Senate of Maryland in 1849 and 1863, and also served in the House of Delegates. The post office name of "Potter's Landing" was changed to Williston in memory of Colonel Willis. One of his daughters, Mary Virginia, married B. Gootee Stevens, and Mrs. William D. Uhler, wife of the State highway engineer of Pennsylvania; Mrs. H. Earle Smith, of Denton, and Mrs. Elmer E. Wheeler, of Baltimore City, are granddaughters of Colonel Willis.

The brilliant social regime at the "Potter Mansion" during the lifetime of General Potter and of Colonel Willis ended with the death of the latter, the house since having been partly occupied by tenants. The kitchen wing of the building is the original structure erected by Zabdil Potter in the middle of the eighteenth century. When the property was sold by the heirs of Colonel Willis, three years ago, it was purchased, with the wharf and other buildings, by Lawrence B. Towers, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Caroline County. The Towers Wharf property, just below on the river, is owned by his brother, Thomas Frederick Towers—this being the homestead of their father, William Frank Towers, and where Chairman Albert Garey Towers, of the Maryland Public Service Commission, and his elder brother, Lawrence, were born. The younger brother was born at "Gilpin's Point," also a homestead of this family, and famous in a bygone day as the home of Col. William Richardson, (1735–1825).

Colonel Richardson is buried on the place, which lies opposite the mouth of the Tuckahoe, and was surveyed in 1683 as "Mulrain." He gave his seat in the Convention of 1776 to Thomas Johnson; was colonel of the only Eastern Shore Battalion of the Flying Camp, which at Harlem Heights made the first bayonet charge of the Revolution. From January 1, 1777, until his resignation on October 22, 1779, he commanded the Fifth Regiment of the Maryland Line, John Eager Howard being its lieutenant-colonel. He held many public offices, and died as Treasurer of the Eastern Shore.

NECK MEETING HOUSE

Near Denton

STANDING in a grove on the north side of the road leading westward from the Choptank River at Denton, and a short distance from the river, this homely and weatherbeaten wooden structure has for several generations been a landmark of the "Logan's Horns" tract. For years, however, no religious service has been held in it, and the "Neck Meeting" of Friends, which sent reports in the first and middle quarters of the nineteenth century from this house of worship to the next higher meeting, the Third Haven Monthly Meeting at Easton, which kept the records, has passed entirely out of existence. No members of the "Neck Meeting" are left in the community, and far and wide are scattered the descendants of those who once gathered here for prayer and praise.

Early in the last century, or in the latter part of the eighteenth, this property passed to the Friends from the Nicolites, a small sect very similar in thought and practice, but of independent origin. The "Neck Meeting House," so called from its location on the upper verge of Tuckahoe Neck, is the last of the three places of worship that belonged to the Nicolites on the Maryland and Delaware Peninsula.

Their founder, Joseph Nicol, born in Delaware near the Caroline border about 1700, was wild and thoughtless in his youth, and foremost in the rude merrymaking and worse of a band that then infested the State line of the same character as that described in George Alfred Townsend's "Entailed Hat." The sudden death of a comrade at a dance impressed Nicol, and he became quiet and meditative. When he spoke of the serious problems of life and the importance of being prepared for certain death, it was with such power and fervor that many people assembled to hear him discourse. Meeting places were provided, but he never promised to "preach." He said he intended to be "obedient" only. He was the sole leader of his sect, and with his death, while yet in the prime of manhood, his followers seem to have been absorbed by the Friends, "who were then at the zenith of their zeal for reforms in the world which have since largely been made, if we except the great question of war," writes Wilson M. Tylor, of Easton. "The Nicolites were quietists in form and endeavored to lead the simple life," according to Mr. Tylor:

> I well remember the last remaining Nicolite. With his death the departing ray of flickering light from that sect forever set. His name was Elisha Meloney, (remembered still, perhaps, by some of the older citizens of Caroline), who died about the beginning of the Civil War. He lived between the farms of Col. Richard C. Carter and Capt. Robert W. Emerson, on the road leading from Denton to Hillsboro. He was a real Samaritan. Elisha Meloney never identified himself with Friends, though he attended the "Neck Meeting" regularly until his death.

In the graveyard of the "Neck Meeting House" lie a few of the former members of this Friends' organization, among them the parents of Mr. Tylor, whose brother, J. Edward Tylor, now owns the property, title having been given him by the Third Haven Monthly Meeting, with the sanction of the General Assembly of 1904.

> And a sheltering place for the birds of the air
> May this house become, where once echoed prayer,
> But the Spirit of God is above heat and frost,
> And the echoes of prayer can never be lost.
> The life of a Christian for ages may gleam,
> Though his sect cannot wear Christ's coat without seam—

are the concluding lines of a poem on Joseph Nicol's life and work written by the late Miss Rachel B. Sattherthwaite, of Talbot, a half-sister of Mr. Tylor.

OAK LAWN

Built 1783

ON one of the gables of this fine specimen of colonial architecture, built at the close of the Revolution, is the legend, traced in the customary way, "B. S., 1783." These initials testify to the identity of the builder, Benjamin Silvester. Many land grants in this region of Caroline run in the names of Silvester, Purnell and Boon, dating back a hundred or more years before Benjamin Silvester erected this house upon one of them.

"The Golden Lyon," August 5, 1675, 200 acres; "Mischiefe," March 2, 1679, 100 acres; "Bear Garden," July 24, 1683, 353 acres; "Silvester's Forrest," August 3, 1682, 250 acres; "Silvester's Addition," March 17, 1689, 214 acres; "Woodland," May 17, 1689, 100 acres, were surveyed for James Silvester, and some of these tracts were "possest" by Benjamin Silvester and James Silvester, Jr., when the rent roll of 1722 was made up. Richard Purnell owned "The Golden Lyon" and "Dudley's Chance," 200 acres, surveyed June 26, 1679. "Partnership," 500 acres, was surveyed October 27, 1683, for William Purnell, Richard Purnell, and John Boon; and "Purnell's Forrest," 500 acres, July 4, 1683, for William Purnell. In 1722

it was "possest by William Boon, who married Purnell's widow." Other lands are also mentioned as being held by William Boon "in right of his wife." "Purnell's Chance," 100 acres, was surveyed October 27, 1683, for William Purnell, and "Purnell's Addition," 150 acres, April 27, 1688, for William and Richard Purnell. William Boon owned part of "The Oak Ridge," 380 acres, surveyed November 25, 1678, for John James and John Boon; "Boon's Pleasure," 250 acres, surveyed February 5, 1720; "Boon's Park," 200 acres, November 7, 1679; "Hiccory Ridge," 150 acres, November 15, 1678, and "Haddon," 400 acres, February 3, 1689, were surveyed for John Boon. Some of these tracts were contiguous to or lay nearby "Dickenson's Plains," 860 acres, surveyed for William Dickenson and Lovelace Gorsuch, "on the east side the main branch of Tuckahoe Creek." "Swanbrook," 770 acres, surveyed 1688, for Lovelace Gorsuch, was, like "Dickenson's Plains," "possest" by William Dickenson in 1722.

Benjamin Silvester died in 1797, and Isaac Purnell was his executor. In this house was born Mrs. Mary M. Bourne, and she inherited the "Oak Lawn" estate from her grandfather, Benjamin Silvester, and many ancestral acres in the Silvester and Purnell families. Allen Thorndike Rice, editor of the *North American Review*, spent part of his boyhood at "Oak Lawn" with his grandmother, Mrs. Bourne, who later had built on "The Plains," nearby, a magnificent summer home, now converted into St. Gertrude's Convent of the Benedictine Sisters. Mrs. Bourne died at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1881.

"Oak Lawn" is two and a half miles from the town of Ridgely, founded in 1867. Bayard Taylor came down the newly built railroad from Clayton to Easton in 1871, on a tour of the Eastern Shore and breathed "the oldest atmosphere of life" to be found "anywhere in this republic." His classic "Down the Eastern Shore" in *Harper's* comments on the English character of the scenery, the attractive country of Caroline and Talbot; the estates and genealogies of the region. The town of Ridgely was named after Rev. Greenbury W. Ridgely, who lived at "Oak Lawn" from 1858 until his death in 1883—a native of Kentucky, of Maryland lineage, once a law partner at Lexington of Henry Clay, and for forty years before his retirement to Caroline an active clergyman of the Episcopal Church.

"Oak Lawn" is now owned by John K. Lynch.

CEDARHURST

BUILT 1782

THAWLEY HOUSE

BUILT 1783

ANOTHER example of eighteenth century brick architecture in the region between the Choptank and the Tuckahoe—where agricultural development has in the past two decades reached a remarkably high point—is "Cedarhurst," on the Oakland-Greensboro road. This is one of the Boon houses, built in 1782; another is that on the "Marblehead" farm, in the same neighborhood.

John Boon was the owner of "Marblehead" early in the last century, the plantation being made up by him from various tracts. The doors and mantels and interior woodwork of these two houses speak eloquently of the consummate art of the olden-time carpenters and joiners. The first-floor windows of "Marblehead" are high above the ground, and give a fortress-like air to the structure. It passed out of the Boon family connection when the heirs of William Boon Massey, in 1904, sold it to Irwin T. and Albert G. Saulsbury, of Ridgely, sons of James Keene Saulsbury, one of the founders of that town. "Cedarhurst," another Massey property, was sold about the same time, and for some years has been the home of James H. Pippin.

Ten miles to the south of "Cedarhurst" and "Marblehead," on the north bank of the Tuckahoe River, (no longer designated as "creek" since it became known to the Rivers and Harbor Bill), is a third house of like age. This is called the "Thawley House," (originally the "Daffin House"), from its late owner, William H. Thawley, of Hillsboro, whose widow and children now have title to the property. It faces a public road, with a view of the picturesque stream of the Tuckahoe at the back, and was built by Thomas Daffin in 1783. The Daffin family was prominent in the early history of Caroline, and Charles Daffin was for years a Justice of the County Court, and held many representative positions.

Andrew Jackson, of Tennessee, attending the sessions at Philadelphia of the Fourth Congress as a Representative and of the Fifth as a Senator, is said to have visited Caroline, and to have been a guest at the Daffin home, as well as at others on the eastern bank of the Choptank. Here he made the acquaintance of young Charles Dickinson, whom he successfully urged to move to Tennessee, and the sequel to their one-time friendship and amicable business relations, which did not survive the exigencies of Tennessee politics and social life, was the duel on the Red River in Kentucky in which Dickinson fell.

CASTLE HALL

BUILT 1781

THOMAS HARDCASTLE, eldest son of the original settler of this name on the Eastern Shore, Robert Hardcastle, was the builder of this house. Its construction was delayed by the Revolutionary War, in which Peter Hardcastle, third son of Robert, was a Major of Continental troops. After the death of Thomas Hardcastle, "Castle Hall" was occupied by his son, William Molleson Hardcastle, (1778–1874), and its third owner was Dr. Alexander Hardcastle. father of Alexander Hardcastle, Jr., of the Baltimore bar. The namesake of Dr. William Molleson, an early physician at "Bridgetown" and a prominent patriot in Caroline at the time of the Revolution, William Molleson Hardcastle was eleven times elected to the Maryland Assembly. He married Anna, daughter of Henry Colston, of Talbot, and two of their sons—Alexander, and Edward B., of Talbot—were physicians. The former practiced for many years at "Castle Hall," and married a daughter of U. S. Senator Arnold Naudain, of Delaware. His later years were spent in Denton, where he died January 24, 1911, in his seventy-fifth year.

Robert Hardcastle came from England, and in 1748 patented

lands in Queen Anne's County, (later included in Caroline). His homestead was on the west bank of the Choptank, above "Brick Mills." Of his several sons, some removed to Virginia and the Western territory. The eldest of Thomas' eight sons, Aaron Hardcastle, was the father of Edward Bourke Hardcastle, long a merchant at Denton, who married Ann, daughter of Caleb Lockwood, of Delaware. Their sons, Edmund LaFayette and Aaron Bascom, became officers in the U. S. Army.

Edmund LaFayette Hardcastle, the first cadet appointed from Caroline to the West Point Military Academy, was named in 1842 by Representative James Alfred Pearce. He graduated in 1846, fifth, and a "star" member, of his class of fifty-nine, McClellan being second and Pickett last. Foster, Reno, Couch, Seymour, Gilbert, Sturgis, Stoneman, Oakes, Palmer, Gibbs, Gordon, Myers, Floyd-Jones, Wilkins, Whistler, Davis later rose to high rank in the Federal Army. "Stonewall" Jackson, (No. 17 in the class), Adams, Smith, Maury, Jones, Wilcox, Gardner, Maxey were among the graduates who joined the Confederacy. Hardcastle, with nine of his classmates, was in civil life in 1861, and declined to take sides, although offered high command.

As Second Lieutenant of Topographical Engineers, (the "star" graduates having choice of this corps), Hardcastle was with Scott from the siege of Vera Cruz to the capture of the City of Mexico, rendering brilliant service in every engagement. Scott mentioned him at Cerro Gordo; "for gallant and meritorious conduct" at Contreras and Churubusco he was brevetted First Lieutenant, and Molino del Rey gave him a brevet-Captaincy. Scott assigned him to make a survey for the drainage of the City of Mexico and its protection from lake overflows; he ran the northwestern Mexican-United States boundary under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; was first engineer secretary of the Light House Board; planned the lighthouses at Seven-foot Knoll, at the mouth of the Patapsco, and on Minot's Ledge, Massachusetts, two triumphs of engineering skill; resigned from the Army April 30, 1856, and settled in Talbot, on the "Plaindealing" estate, becoming one of the largest landowners and foremost agriculturists of the county; delegate to the Charleston and Baltimore Democratic conventions of 1860; President of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad; Delegate in General Assembly, 1870, 1878; appointed brigadier-general of the Maryland Militia by Governors Groome and Carroll; died August 10, 1899.

Aaron Bascom Hardcastle, appointed from Caroline to the Army as Second Lieutenant of the Sixth Infantry, by President Pierce in 1855, was post adjutant of Fort Laramie when the Mormon Expedition was fitted out, and marched with it under Albert Sidney Johnston in the winter campaign of 1857–58. Resigning his commission as First Lieutenant at San Diego, Cal., in 1861 he came East with Johnston, raised a battalion in Mississippi, and took it into action at Shiloh; was a regimental commander at Missionary Ridge, and in all the battles of the retreat through Georgia. From 1876 till his death, in 1915, Colonel Hardcastle was a resident of Easton.

"Castle Hall" is now owned by J. Spencer Lapham, a noted mid-Peninsula agriculturist.

PLAINDEALING

Built 1789

"PLAINDEALING," the home of J. Boon Dukes, a half mile below Denton, on the State road through Caroline County, has a most attractive situation, and the trees, meadow, and well-kept farmstead closely copy a typically English rural scene. Mr. Dukes, a former State Immigration Commissioner, and active in the public life of his county for a long period, was born in this house in 1840, and has lived there ever since. His father, James Dukes, owned about 2,000 acres of land on the Choptank River, between the branches of Watts' Creek, and on both sides of the old road to "Potter's Landing," now a State highway. He added the "Plaindealing" house to his holdings when it was sold by the county authorities in 1823, with six acres of ground.

This house, remodeled since it came into the Dukes family, was built for the county home of the poor of Caroline, in 1789, and its original construction evidences that it was the intention of the County Commissioners of that day to provide a home for their charges equal in comfort and almost in dimensions to any private residence then

extant in the county. After being devoted to this purpose for about thirty years, "Plaindealing" was replaced as a county home by a farm much farther from Denton.

"Plaindealing" has been a hospitable social center of the community for the past ninety years.

Watts' Creek, a small tributary of the Choptank, has been a geographical landmark since the days of the first settlements along the upper Choptank. Tradition says it once provided a refuge for Captain Kidd, whose "buried treasure" has been sought in its banks. Now it is no longer navigable, even for small boats. "Rochester" and "Indian Quarter" were surveyed on it in 1665; "Hampstead," "Hall's Fortune," "Kirkham's Discovery," "Surveyor's Forrest," in 1682; "Apparly," "James' Park," "Rattlesnake Ridge," in 1683; "Parshar," "Hermitage," "Chettell's Lot," "Chestnut Ridge," and other tracts after the beginning of the eighteenth century. The creek's branches, "markt trees," and "bounded gumbs" are described minutely. "Plaindealing," 200 acres, was surveyed October 22, 1706.

James Dukes died in 1842, and his widow survived at "Plaindealing" until 1882. She was a daughter of John Boon, of "Marblehead," the first State Senator from Caroline County elected by popular vote. Most of the time from 1812 to 1836 he was a Judge of the Orphans' Court.

Referring to his own identification with "Plaindealing," Mr. Dukes says that he is "equally proud of the fact that a former slave of the family, Herbert, also born and raised on the place, has remained with the family to this time."

WICOMICO COUNTY

1867

UNLIKE the other Eastern Shore counties, Wicomico, youngest of the nine, was created by a Constitutional Convention, the act of which became operative when ratified by the voters in the territory affected. Four of the twenty-three Maryland counties were created by Constitutional Conventions; two, (Washington and Montgomery), by that of 1776; one, (Howard), by that of 1851, and the fourth, (Wicomico), by that of 1867. That this section of the old Counties of Somerset and Worcester was becoming so thickly populated as to justify the forming of a new county has been borne out by the recent growth of Wicomico and its county-seat, Salisbury. Wicomico is easily accessible to the Chesapeake Bay, but has no extensive bay frontage like six of its Eastern Shore sisters. Caroline is the sole inland Eastern Shore county, and Worcester lies on the ocean.

Indians held full sway in this forest-covered part of Maryland when the charter of 1632 was granted to Cecilius Calvert, and after the early settlements were made on the "Eastern Shore" they traded with the Swedes on the Delaware and brought beaver, wolf and other skins of wild animals down the Wicomico and Nanticoke Rivers to the old settlement of "Green Hill," the erection of which into a town was later authorized by Act of Assembly, (1706). Little of the geography of the country was known to the first colonists, and the rivers were their only routes of communication in that densely wooded locality. Not until 1760 did the present line between Sussex County, Delaware, and what is now Wicomico County become fixed, and in 1763 Mason and Dixon began to run the line between Maryland and Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The part of the old County of Somerset now embraced in Wicomico is co-extensive with the western and southern bounds of two of

the old civil divisions of Somerset, once known as Wicomico and Nanticoke Hundreds. Then, too, these bounds are almost identical with the bounds of Stepney Parish at the time it was laid out.

Upon the assumption in 1692 of the government of the Province of Maryland by the English Crown, Sir Lionel Copley was sent as the first royal Governor and he at once had an Act passed by the Assembly establishing by law the Church of England in the Province, and in accordance with this law each county was divided into parishes. Of the thirty laid out in the Province four were in Somerset County. Stepney Parish was one of them, and its bounds were about the same as the bounds of Wicomico County. When the freeholders assembled to lay out the parish they met at the house of Rev. John Hewitt, who was the first rector. Prior to the making of the Church of England the established church of the Province all worship had been free and churches had been supported by voluntary contributions, but then all "taxables" had to contribute to the extent of forty pounds of tobacco per poll to maintain the establishment. Protestant dissenters and Quakers were allowed their separate meeting houses if they paid the tax.

When "Green Hill" was made a town it became a port of entry. It was laid out in 100 lots and on Lot 16 Green Hill Church was built in 1733. One of the chapels of ease of this parish was known in 1768 as Goddard's Chapel, and as it had become unfit for use it was ordered torn down and rebuilt on "two acres of land on the south side of Wicomico River and above the branch whereon the mill of William Venables is built." This is the present site of the Episcopal Church in Salisbury.

Salisbury was laid out according to Act of Assembly in 1732, and is now the largest town on the Eastern Shore, and has many industries that insure its still further growth in the future. Situated on the Wicomico River, it presented to the observer a very unique position prior to 1867, inasmuch as Division Street of the town was the dividing line between Worcester County and Somerset County. Those living on the east side of the street were obliged to go to Snow Hill to attend to court matters, while those on the west side of Division Street went to Princess Anne. This condition obtained for many years prior to 1867. Tired of it and vexed by its annoyances the

people of Salisbury, led by the Grahams, Leonards, Todds, Toadvines and Jacksons, succeeded in carrying the election in favor of forming the new county.

No company of old soldiers at a reunion can grow as animated in reminiscence as can a party of Wicomico countians, who took part in that memorable campaign of 1867, when discussing its strenuosities. All the allied eloquence, craft and political sagacity of the leaders of all parties in both Worcester and Somerset were arrayed against the "upstarts" of this section, which wanted to deprive them, each, of one-third of their territory, and set up the presumption that Salisbury could possibly be in a class with either Snow Hill or Princess Anne. Geographically speaking, brother was arrayed against brother. The Franklins and Joneses and Crisfields and Dashiells were fighting the Grahams and Leonards and Todds and Toadvines and Jacksons.

The names of Wicomico's first officials are of men known to every Wicomico countian. Thomas F. J. Rider was chosen the first Clerk of the Circuit Court—his name is interwoven with much of the county's subsequent history. Salisbury's then leading merchant, William Birckhead, was chosen the first Register of Wills, and no man could have inspired greater confidence. To Barren Creek District went the shrievalty, William Howard, being the county's first Sheriff. Who can even think of the earlier days of the *Salisbury Advertiser* without linking in the same thought the name of Lemuel Malone, its editor, afterward by an appreciative Governor given the title of "Colonel"? To him was given the honor of being the county's first State Senator. Ritchie Fooks and George Hopkins were its first Delegates to the General Assembly.

For a number of years the county had neither court house nor jail, these being built in 1878. Terms of the Circuit Court were held in Jackson's Opera House, the various county officials having offices in nearby quarters.

The names of many living at the time the county was formed are of men who stood for what was best in civic, social and religious life, whose very living at that time, with their active participation in its stirring events, presaged successful and conservative business administration for the new county.

There was Purnell Toadvine, a man of affairs, who left large

impress upon his community; and there was Gen. Humphrey Humphreys, of whom the same may be said, and Col. William J. Leonard, William Birckhead, whose name stood not only for business success, but for personal probity; Milton Parsons, and the tall, angular, honest John White; Hugh Jackson, and his sons, Elihu, William, Wilbur Fisk; Col. Samuel A. Graham, Drs. Marion F. and Albert Slemons, Dr. H. Laird Todd, Dr. Kerr, Josephus Humphreys, William Howard, James Gillis and Beauchamp Gillis, William Levi and James Laws; Andrew and Nelson Crawford; Elijah, William and Peter Freeny, King V. White, Isaac H. Dulany, George Lowe, George Hitch. These men stood for much in their county and verily their deeds do live after them, and they have left a goodly heritage to the old and middle-aged men and women of today, their sons and daughters.

No cosmopolite character enters into the class making up Wicomico's citizenship. Most of us know who was the grandfather and the great-grandfather and maybe the great-great-grandfather of nearly everybody else, and what he was and did and whence he came. And we are proud of the knowledge both of what we are and who we are, and what and who our neighbors are. No community, so constituted, ever goes far wrong.

Two decades after its organization, Wicomico added a Governor of Maryland to the Eastern Shore list. Elihu Emory Jackson, elected in 1887, was inaugurated January 11, 1888, and remained the State's Chief Executive until January 13, 1892. The original territory of Somerset has furnished two other Governors. Levin Winder, of Somerset, held the office from November 25, 1812, until January 2, 1816, and John Walter Smith, of Worcester, was Governor from January 10, 1900, until January 13, 1904.

L. Irving Pollitt

OLD GREEN HILL CHURCH

BUILT 1733

"OLD Green Hill" Church, was built in 1733 and stands on the banks of the Wicomico River, partly hidden from view of passing boats by the great oaks that surround it. It was the parish church of Stepney Parish, one of the original thirty laid out in 1692. The first vestrymen of this parish were James Weatherly, John Bounds, Philip Carter, Robert Collyer, Thomas Holebrook and Philip Askue. The land on which this relic of colonial days was built was sold to the vestry of Stepney Parish on April 19, 1731, by Neal McClester, and is described in the deed as "all that lot of land lying in a place in the county aforesaid called and known by the name of Green Hill Town which by the commissioners for laying out the said town was numbered sixteen."

The chapels of ease of the parish were "Goddard's Chapel" and "Spring Hill Chapel." The first of these had become so dilapidated that the assembly authorized the vestry of Stepney Parish "to purchase two acres of land on the south side of Wicomico River and above the branch whereon the mill of William Venables is built" and

to rebuild "Goddard Chapel" thereon. This is the present site of the Episcopal church in Salisbury. One hundred thousand pounds of tobacco were levied to be collected in 1768 and 1769 to rebuild the chapel. Two acres were purchased "near unto the place where Spring Hill Chapel now stands to erect the new chapel" there in 1768. For this chapel sixty thousand pounds of tobacco were levied to be collected in 1770 and 1771.

One of the distinguished sons of Somerset once rector of Stepney Parish, the Rev. William Murray Stone, became, in 1830, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. At that time the diocese was co-extensive with the State. During the war with Great Britain and until 1783 there was no rector in Stepney. Because of their loyalty to the crown the clergy were deprived of support, vestries ceased to exist in their official capacity and the churches were closed with few exceptions.

The Rev. Hamilton Bell, Jr., was the first rector of Stepney Parish under the Vestry Act of 1779, which Act of the Maryland Assembly gave to the churches the property they had held under the rule of the Lords Baltimore.

The following names appear in the Register of old Stepney Parish:

Ackworth	Crockett	Graham	Melson	Ritchie
Adkins	Culver	Griffen	Messick	Robertson
Bacon	Dashiells	Handy	Mills	Roberts
Ballard	Delaney	Haward	Mitchell	Stanford
Banks	Dennis	Hayman	Moore	Stevens
Bedsworth	Denwood	Hearn	Morris	Stone
Birkhead	Disharoon	Hoffington	Murrill	Tall
Bishop	Dickerson	Horsey	Nelson	Tull
Bounds	Dixon	Howard	Olliphant	Turner
Bozman	Dorman	Hughes	Owens	Twilley
Bradley	Dulaney	Humphreys	Parsons	Venables
Brattan	Ellingsworth	Hynson	Phillips	Wailes
Brewington	Elzey	Insley	Polk	Wainwright
Byrd	Evans	Jackson	Pollitt	Waller
Cary	Farrington	Lankford	Porter	Waters
Chaille	Finney	Laramore	Powell	Weatherly
Chapman	Fountain	Leonard	Price	Williams
Collier	Fowler	Linch	Ralph	Willing
Cooper	Gale	Lowe	Revell	Winder
Cottman	Giles	McClester	Richardson	Wootten
Covington	Gillis	McGrath		

PEMBERTON HALL

Built 1741

A SHORT distance above the mouth of the Wicomico River this body of water narrows down and follows a winding course for many miles. High land is passed, at intervals, on both sides of the river, and the brick foundations of many old structures are seen on a trip up the Wicomico to Salisbury. On one of the banks of the many reaches of this river, after passing "Old Green Hill Church," stands a large red-brick house with a shingled gambrel roof and quaint dormer windows—this is "Pemberton Hall," one of the homes of the distinguished Handy family of Wicomico County.

This house was built in 1741 by one of the Handys, and the date of building can be seen in the brick end of the house, the figures being outlined in black bricks. "Pemberton Hall" is probably the third oldest building standing in Wicomico County—"Green Hill Church," built in 1733, and the "Ben Davis House," which was the church parsonage, are older. The interior of this colonial homestead is typical of the homes of that period. Upon entering the front door a wide hall is seen extending through the house from north to south, and in its

earlier days might have been called a living-room. The west end of the lower floor is one large room, where the dances and celebrations of colonial times were held. On the east side of the hall are two large rooms, one of which was the dining-room and is so used today. The old staircase is very graceful and is made of heart pine, which wood was also used for all the floors. This woodwork is well preserved and in almost as good condition as when the house was built. The kitchen, located on the east side of the house, was separated from the main building by a colonnade, both of which were of wood and up to twenty-five years ago the original structure stood.

In addition to this place, the Handys were also owners of "Pemberton," on the west side of the Wicomico River, and "Pemberton's Good Will," located on the opposite side of the river. In 1732, the town of Salisbury was established by an Act of the Assembly on the land of William Winder, a minor, and laid out, adjoining the celebrated "Handy Hall" farm on the east. The Handys at that time owned "Pemberton's Good Will" and "Pemberton," which included "Pemberton Hall" and "Handy's Hall." These Handys and their descendants, many of whom were lawyers and jurists of distinction, owned both of these properties until 1835, when they were purchased by Jehu Parsons and by will devised to his son, Alison C. Parsons. On the death of the latter, in 1868, the farm was sold at trustee's sale to Elihu E. Jackson and James Cannon, who afterward divided the farm —Cannon keeping the part on the riverside until he sold it to Cadmus J. Taylor, who remained there until his death, and it now belongs to his son, James Ichabod Taylor, who continues to reside at "Pemberton Hall."

POPLAR HILL MANSION

Built 1795

THE property known as "Pemberton's Good Will" was purchased by Maj. Levin Handy, who came to Maryland from Rhode Island, in 1795, from heirs of Capt. John Winder. Major Handy's former State is used with his name in the deed to distinguish him from Col. Levin Handy, of the Revolutionary Army, although it is said that the Major was originally from Somerset. These Winder heirs were the three daughters of Captain Winder, who had married, respectively, J. R. Morris, Levin Handy and David Wilson. Capt. John Winder was the father of Governor Levin Winder and Maj.-Gen. William H. Winder. A son of David Wilson and Priscilla Winder was Col. Ephraim King Wilson, the elder, Representative in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Congresses, and the father of Senator Ephraim King Wilson, the younger. Colonel Wilson married a daughter of Col. Samuel Handy, of Worcester.

After buying "Pemberton's Good Will," Major Handy built the present mansion, using largely New Jersey heart pine and sparing no cost in the construction. Its large rooms and spacious hall lend them-

selves now, as in past generations, admirably to social functions. The interior finish—woodwork and painting—have been of keen interest to the community for years, and much praised by those seeking true colonial models. George W. D. Waller, the present owner and occupant of "Poplar Hill Mansion," wishing to restore some of this work, could find no artisan in his neighborhood to undertake it and was told that this craftsmanship of a century ago was now unknown.

After Maj. Levin Handy, the property was owned by Peter Dashiell, a brother-in-law of Dr. John Huston, to whom he conveyed "Poplar Hill" in 1805. Major Handy had, in the meanwhile, returned to Newport, Rhode Island. Dr. Huston, a physician of wide reputation, lived in the mansion and practiced medicine in Salisbury until his death, about the middle of the last century. One of his old family servants, who recently died, at an advanced age, Saul Huston, was the wealthiest colored man in that section of the State. As is almost invariably the case with old family servants of the Eastern Shore—but very few of whom now survive—Saul was shrewd, dignified, with a quick brain and pleasing personality, and carried the impress of old-time manners and virtues.

Dr. Huston left a large family; one of his daughters married William W. Handy, and they became the parents of John Huston Handy, the noted Maryland lawyer; another, Dr. Cathell Humphreys, and a third, Thomas Robertson, who occupied the mansion until it was purchased by George Waller, father of the present owner. A house of much earlier construction stood on "Poplar Hill," and the back building, now connected by a colonnade, (built by Major Handy), with the mansion, was the original Winder residence. A grove of Lombardy poplars, the largest ever known to grow in that section, originally surrounded the mansion, but they have disappeared, and the tree is no longer found in that part of the Eastern Shore. A large section of the city of Salisbury was built on the "Pemberton's Good Will" tract. Isabella Street and Elizabeth Street are named for Dr. Huston's daughters.

Col. Isaac Handy, the progenitor of the Somerset family, settled on the Wicomico River in 1665, three miles from the site of Salisbury, and did an importing business on the present Main Street. Salisbury was known as "Handy's Landing" until 1732.

WICOMICO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"ROKAWAKIN" CHURCH

DR. ALFRED NEVIN, in his "History of the Presbytery of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Central," writes: "The Presbyterians had their meeting houses in Snow Hill, Pitts Creek, Wicomico, Manokin and Rehoboth, as early as 1680." The frontispiece map shown in "The Days of Makemie," by Rev. L. P. Bowen, D.D., indicates the location of these early established churches. The church as originally built on the Wicomico River was on what is now the "Anderson Farm," called the "Upper Ferry" on the main thoroughfare from Princess Anne to Barren Creek. Around this church at the time of the Revolutionary War were quite a number of Presbyterian families. Among the more noted were those of Major Roxburgh, the Slemonses, Andersons, Irvings, Lynchs, Ellegoods, Pollitts and Taylors. After the original church became dilapidated and the population extended farther northward, the old church was removed from its site at the "Ferry" to the road crossing at the "Rokawakin Creek," four miles from Salisbury. The architecture of this church, as shown in the picture, is similar to that of the Protestant Episcopal Spring Hill

Church and tradition has it that the framing, including sills, rafters and sleepers were the material of the old church.

That the Presbyterian Church was firmly established on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland by Francis Makemie there is no doubt. The following is quoted from "The Days of Makemie," and shows the activities of this remarkable man:

"The months that followed were privileged seasons in the lives of our Presbyterian colonists. Mr. Makemie was everywhere, cheering the hearts of the scattered Calvinists, preaching on the Annamessex, preaching on the Manokin, preaching on the Wicomico, preaching up toward the head of navigation on the Pocomoke, preaching on the seaboard, preaching down on the Virginia line."

Prior to 1764 the Manokin and Wicomico churches were united under one pastorate. One of the events of interest in the "History of the Manokin Presbyterian Church," under date of April 26, 1796, is the following: "Ordered, that a collection be taken in the congregation every Sabbath during the time the Rev. John Collins is appointed by Presbytery to preach." The following is entered upon the sessional minutes at this time: "The Presbytery . . . . directs that the Rev. Johh Collins supply every third Sabbath at 'Rokawakin' (Wicomico), Manokin and Rehoboth, in rotation, till the last of August, the rest of his time, until the next sessions, to be at his own discretion."

Appropriate to the passing of many of these sacred edifices, are the closing words of a sermon delivered by the Rev. A. C. Heaton, D.D., Sunday, May 4, 1865.

"Where many a pious foot hath trod
That now is dust, beneath the sod;
Where many a sacred tear was wept,
From eyes that long in death have slept.
The temple's builders, where are they—
The worshippers? All passed away.
We rear the perishable wall,
But ere it crumble, we must fall."

BEN DAVIS HOUSE

Built about 1733

SITUATED on the northwest bank of the Wicomico River a short distance westerly of "Green Hill Church," is an old house known as the "Ben Davis House." This property has been in the Davis family for many years and is now owned by the heirs of Ben Davis, Jr. Unfortunately this house is no longer occupied and is rapidly going to ruin, yet the lines indicate that one day it was a substantial homestead. It is said to have been the parsonage connected with "Green Hill Church." This house is situated on the bank of the river like the church and has a commanding view of the river for miles. In the days when people traveled to church in boats it must have been a wonderful sight to see the river, for miles, white with the sails of the parishioners' canoes coming to attend divine service. The shifting of the population nearer the towns and building of State highways are the chief reasons for these old structures and homes becoming deserted.

BIRTHPLACE OF SAMUEL CHASE

OPPOSITE "GREEN HILL"

THE "Chase House," built of wood, stands on the south side of the Wicomico River, nearly opposite "Green Hill," and is well preserved. Tradition gives the date of its building as about the same time as that of "Pemberton Hall." Here Rev. Thomas Chase lived while rector of Somerset Parish, and here his son, Samuel Chase, among the greatest of American lawyers, was born, April 17, 1741. Rev. Thomas Chase, for the last thirty-four years of his life, was rector of St. Paul's Parish, in Baltimore City, being appointed by Governor Bladen, February 11, 1745. He died April 4, 1779, when his son had attained high rank at the bar, and as a leader in the Revolution.

Taught the classics and English branches by his father, Samuel Chase studied law at Annapolis, where he made his home. He was elected to the Assembly repeatedly from 1764 to 1784; sat in the Continental Congress in 1774–1778; went with Benjamin Franklin and Charles Carroll on a special mission to Canada in 1774; signed the Declaration of Independence; removed to Baltimore in 1786, after another term in Congress; was appointed Judge of the Baltimore Criminal Court, 1788, and Chief Judge of the General Court of

Maryland, 1791; President Washington named him an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court in 1796, and he served as such until his death in Washington, June 19, 1811. Boldest among the Maryland patriots, he early counseled independence, and in the Congress declared, "by the God of Heaven, I owe no allegiance to the King of Great Britain!"

Of the nine impeachment trials before the United States Senate, that of Judge Chase, in 1805, is, next to the impeachment of President Johnson, the most notable. Johnson's acquittal was made possible by the vote of an Eastern Shore Senator, George Vickers, of Kent, and Chase, an Eastern Shoreman by birth, was defended in his trial by an Eastern Shoreman by adoption, Luther Martin. Martin learned his first law in the library of Judge Solomon Wright at "Blakeford," while he was teaching school at Queenstown, and attained his first eminence at the bar in Somerset. On the advice of Chase, he was made Attorney-General of Maryland, and after twenty-seven years in this office appeared before the Senate as Chase's chief advocate. Goddard says:

> Judge Chase had been most injudicious in his remarks concerning President Jefferson's official course. Yet that he was not deserving of impeachment the result of a trial before a body containing a majority politically opposed to him, clearly indicates. The impeachment was not sustained, only three of the eight articles receiving even a majority of the votes of the Senators, none the requisite two-thirds.

Delisle writes:

> No man ever stood higher for honesty of purpose and integrity of motive than Judge Chase. Notwithstanding the rancor of such party feeling as dared to charge President Washington with appropriating the public money to his private use did all in its power to pluck the ermine from his shoulders, yet his purity beamed the brighter as the clouds grew darker and he lived to hear the last whisper of calumny flit by like a bat in the morning twilight.

At this trial Aaron Burr, whom Martin was two years later to so effectively defend at Richmond on the indictment for treason, presided. Judge Chase built the "Chase House" at Annapolis in 1770—the only colonial three-story dwelling in "The Ancient City."

One of the recent owners of the Somerset ancestral Chase homestead was Henry J. Dashiell, the grandfather of Congressman Jesse D. Price, of the First District. Mr. Dashiell sold it to Col. Lemuel Malone, and the present owner is Ephraim Bounds.

SPRING HILL CHURCH

ON ORIGINAL SITE

HISTORY, the record of men and the things they do, is valuable according to its adherence to truth; and it is equally false, certainly in its purposes, if it leaves unrecorded that which had most important consequences. In other States and places families and names disappear, but the history of the Eastern Shore of Maryland is largely read in its family names.

No reference, however brief, to Worcester County would be true to itself and to the people of which it is a record if nothing were said about Spring Hill Church—once the church of Stepney Parish, which has been the center of the parish life for a century and a half. The history of Spring Hill Church is the history of the old families contributing to its support, influenced by its teachings, the people for whom it has so long been the center of religious, social and intellectual life. These are the family names which themselves, by their mention, tell the history of this old church, and so largely the history of that part of Worcester County, for generations: the Hitches, Robertsons, Walters, Howards, Gillises, Fowlers, Freemys, Gordys, Weatherlys—names synonymous with the church, and a large part of the county.

BISHOP STONE HOUSE

Built about 1766

THE "Bishop Stone House" was built on a tract of land which, for a number of years was in the Stone family, and is situated about half way between Salisbury and Spring Hill Church, on the old stage road leading from Salisbury to Barren Creek, Vienna, and up the Eastern Shore.

The special feature of interest in connection with this house is the fact it was the home of the third Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland. Bishop William Murray Stone was born in Somerset County, June 1, 1779, and was educated at and graduated from Washington College, Chestertown. He was elected and consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, October 21, 1830, and lived in this house until his death, February 26, 1838. At the convention which elected him there was rivalry as to who should be chosen Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland. As a compromise, the convention decided upon the oldest minister in the diocese and it was found that Rev. William Murray Stone was the oldest, and therefore he was

duly elected and consecrated bishop. After his death the property was sold and the family removed to the south side of the Wicomico River, now in Somerset County. Dr. Stone, the surviving son of the bishop, died a few years ago, having passed his "three score years and ten." The property is now owned by E. Jackson Pusey, of Salisbury. The residence is in a well-preserved condition and is said to have been built about a century and a half ago.

The remains of Bishop Stone for many years rested in the burying ground on this place, but after it passed from the Stone family were removed to Parsons' Cemetery, Salisbury. In 1878 the Dioceses of Maryland and Easton erected a handsome monument over the grave as a memorial of the Church's love of Bishop Stone. On the monument is the following inscription:

In loving memory of the
Rt. Rev. Wm. Murray Stone, D.D.
Sometime
Bishop of Maryland.

On the tomb the inscription is as follows:

This stone marks the Hallowed resting place of one who faithful unto death now rejoices in the crown of life which God has prepared for those that love him.
The Right Rev. William M. Stone, D.D. was born June 1, 1779, was Rector of Spring Hill and Stepney Parishes more than 25 years, was consecrated Bishop of Maryland October 21, 1830, and died 26th of Feb. 1838.
He was eminently meek and had not foes
His heart was warm and true and he had cordial friends
Office and honor sought him in the retirement which he loved
Patience and faith sustained him in the trials of his pilgrimage
And hope never forsook him until she beheld him in the fruition of the everlasting promises of the Master whom he had devotedly served.

CHERRY HILL

On Wicomico River

LOCATED on a high bank on the south side of the Wicomico River, at the junction of Tony Tank Creek and the river, about two miles from Salisbury, is "Cherry Hill," the home of the Somers and Gunby families for the past two centuries.

This place derives its name from the first patent, in which the land is called "Cherry Hill." The original house was built of wood, but has been rebuilt by the present owner, Louis W. Gunby, of Salisbury. The interior, however, has been preserved, with its broad fireplaces and curved staircase, borders of scrollwork and the flooring of heart pine. The chimneys are on the outside, as originally built, and the house has a very picturesque appearance from the river, and from the house there is an extended view of the Wicomico above and below for miles.

There were several owners of "Cherry Hill" before it came into the possession of Capt. Samuel Somers, about the end of the eighteenth century, who added to and enlarged the house that had been there many years. Captain Somers was a noted sea captain and traded with the West and East Indies to Baltimore and to "Cherry

Hill," where he had large warehouses for the storage of the goods brought on his trips, and supplied the back country extending to Snow Hill.

He was of the noted Somers family, members of which served in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. One of his ancestors, George Somers, is said to have raised the first British flag on Bermuda Island after being shipwrecked there. Captain Somers' only son, William D. Somers, died without male issue, having one daughter, who is now Mary Pollitt. Captain Somers' two daughters married brothers, John and William Gunby. The present owner of the old family residence, Louis W. Gunby, of Salisbury, is a son of Charlotte Somers and John Gunby, and he has made this old mansion and its surrounding grounds one of the most beautiful country homes on the Eastern Shore.

OLD TYPES OCCASIONALLY SEEN ON THE EASTERN SHORE

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

Established 1782

WASHINGTON College was established by an Act of the Legislature of Maryland in 1782. It ranks as the oldest college in Maryland, and the eleventh in order of foundation in the country. There had been in existence in Chestertown the Kent County School, which dates back certainly to 1723, and which probably had its beginning at a still earlier unknown date. The college charter merely "enlarged the plan of the Kent County School by engrafting thereon a system of liberal education in the arts and sciences."

The college was the concept of the distinguished divine, publicist and educator, Rev. William Smith, D.D., who served both as the first president of the Board of Visitors and Governors, and first principal of the college. Under Dr. Smith's direction and influence a foundation sum of ten thousand pounds was subscribed, mainly by citizens of the Eastern Shore, in consideration of which subscription the State pledged the annual appropriation—the income from certain licenses and fees. The State, however, soon came to discharge this obligation very irregularly and the progress of the college was thereby

hampered. During the past decade the State has made reasonably generous appropriations for maintenance and improvements, and the college has shown a marked development in every respect.

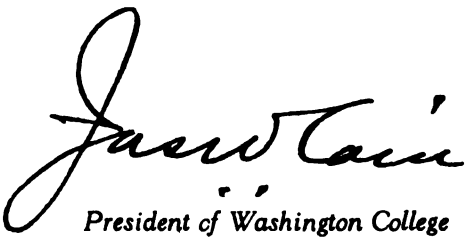
George Washington's connection with the college is peculiar and interesting. In a letter dated Newburg, New York, August 18, 1782, he graciously accepted the compliment of giving his name to the college. In the same letter he contributed the sum of fifty guineas toward the foundation. In 1784 he visited the college, subscribed his name as a member of the corporation of Visitors and Governors, and attended the commencement of that year. In 1789 the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the college. This diploma, together with the diplomas for the like degree conferred by the universities of Yale, Harvard, Brown and Pennsylvania, is carefully preserved in the archives of the Congressional Library at Washington.

The original building at Washington College, the cornerstone of which was laid by Governor Paca in 1783, was probably the most imposing college building in the country at the time. It had a frontage of 160 feet, and contained class-rooms, living-rooms for students and instructors, and an auditorium in the rear. This building was destroyed by fire in 1827. Owing to the failure of the State to fulfill its promises in the matter of appropriations, and the difficulty of raising money in other ways, it was not until 1844 that sufficient means were at hand to begin the rebuilding of the college. The college was not, however, closed in the meantime, as the classes were conducted in rented quarters. In 1844 Middle Hall was erected and ten years later two additional buildings, known as East Hall and West Hall, were built. The past ten years has shown the most marked development in the history of the college. The faculty has been increased; the curriculum rearranged and new courses of study introduced; the requirements for admission and graduation have been raised; an athletic field, with stands and a cinder running-track, graded and enclosed, and two new buildings, William Smith Hall and the gymnasium, erected.

The physical equipment of the college consists of four residence halls for students; three houses for professors; the old gymnasium, soon to be converted into sick quarters; William Smith Hall, containing the offices, recitation rooms, library, laboratories and audi-

torium; the gymnasium, a commodious and well-equipped building for physical training and indoor games, and Washington Athletic Field. These buildings are situated on a beautiful campus of about sixteen acres, improved with convenient walks, well-kept lawns, shade trees and ornamental shrubbery.

Washington College has experienced the vicissitudes common to all colleges of early foundation in this country, but it has persisted through these changes and shown an ever-increasing vitality. Its doors have never been closed. At all times it has clung to high ideals of scholarship and character, and given to the State and the nation invaluable service in the training of young men for good citizenship.



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SIMPLE LIFE

On the Eastern Shore

I CANNOT call this book complete without a few words of tribute to those men—in the main descendants of the colonial pioneers—who lead the "simple life" on the waterfront of the Eastern Shore. My official work for many years has brought me into personal contact with them and their families. Down on the banks of most of our navigable rivers in tidewater Maryland are many small vine-covered cottages with flowers in the yards. It has been my frequent good fortune to partake of meals in these homes in every Eastern Shore county and the feeling of "I share what I have with you" lends the air of hospitality which makes this section distinctive, even in the fisherman's cottage.

Upon a recent visit to the Straits District, in the lower part of Dorchester County, on Elliott's Island, which is separated from the mainland by six miles of marsh roads, I stopped for dinner at the home of an interesting old lady—bent, but having the use of all her faculties. During the course of our conversation she told me that she had passed her ninety-seventh milestone, having been born at

Bishop's Head in Dorchester. She proudly related that her grandfather was also born in the county, had lived to be over a century, and had fought for the independence of the American colonies.

Wrong impressions have been circulated in other parts of Maryland and its neighboring States, which have led many people to condemn the watermen of the Eastern Shore as a class, and to entertain an erroneous impression of them as "pirates." Upon the whole, they are good citizens, almost entirely of the Anglo-Saxon race, of worthy lineage linking them with the early colonists, true to their own traditional code of honor, with strong home instincts, sturdy and self-reliant.

Their forefathers have fought on the battlefields of every war in which this nation has been engaged, and should our country, in their generation, be so unfortunate as to be drawn into armed conflict with any other, these men of the "sun-tanned brow" and the "horny hand," accustomed to hardship and willing to make sacrifices, even to the last of all, would be prompt in response to their country's call. Such wars may God forbid, and this productive Peninsula never be plowed by enemy shells, and our remaining colonial relics destroyed by shot and torch.

S. E.

[FINIS]

(Continued from front flap)

many of its treasures, with its scenic view of the Wye River and its quaint burying ground. Among the humbler dwellings is the birthplace of Stephen Decatur, the Navy hero, near Berlin in Worcester County; rumor has it that Decatur's father, eager to remove his pregnant bride from the dangers of Philadelphia, which was being occupied by the British troops under Lord Howe, took refuge in this modest abode.

Churches are not neglected: All Hallows Church, built in 1734 and given to the freeholders of what was then in Somerset County in order to establish the Protestant religion within the province; St. Stephens Church whose parish records list some of the most famous names in Maryland history; Rehoboth Church, whose name derives from a verse in Genesis – "And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth and he said, For now the Lord hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Over one hundred half-tone illustrations and a map of the Eastern Shore complement the text of this well documented tribute to the delights of an early American Eden.

Jacket design: Rhea Braunstein

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Tidewater Maryland ARCHITECTURE AND GARDENS

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Henry Chandlee Forman

This work is a delightful record of a civilization which flourished on both sides of the Chesapeake Bay from three hundred to one hundred years ago. In a series of concise monographs on Tidewater Maryland's buildings and gardens, classified regionally, Dr. Forman shows the beauty of a time and place which are sadly changed and have very nearly vanished. Many of the buildings described have already been destroyed, are in the last stages of disintegration or have been hopelessly changed by "improvements."

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